

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SHERMAN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : DOCKET NO. 4:19CR277
:
VS. : SHERMAN, TEXAS
: SEPTEMBER 28, 2020
JULIO RAMOS (12) : 9:45 A.M.
JONATHAN RAMOS (13)

MOTION HEARING
BEFORE THE HONORABLE AMOS L. MAZZANT, III,
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

FOR THE GOVERNMENT: MR. ERNEST GONZALEZ
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PROCEEDINGS REPORTED BY MECHANICAL STENOGRAPHY, TRANSCRIPT
PRODUCED BY COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION.

1 THE COURT: Good morning. Please be seated.

2 Our first case this morning is 4:19CR277, United States
3 of America versus Jonathan Ramos. And for the Government?

4 MR. GONZALEZ: Your Honor, Ernest Gonzalez for the
5 Government. The Government is ready to proceed.

6 THE COURT: And for the Defendant?

7 MR. SILVERMAN: Jed Silverman. Good morning, Your
8 Honor. Defense is ready to proceed.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MR. DAVIS: Good morning, Your Honor. Neal Davis
11 here for Julio Ramos, ready to proceed.

12 THE COURT: Very good. And I set this for hearing
13 because in reviewing the transcript -- well, two things. In
14 the transcript the Government just did a proffer. There was no
15 evidence in the record. And so the Government, in their motion
16 to stay to the Court, had information that wasn't part of the
17 record before. So that is the reason why.

18 Normally I just do a de novo review on the existing
19 hearing, but I could not do that based upon -- I could see
20 why the Magistrate Judge made the decision they did, but --
21 I can understand the Government's position, but that
22 evidence wasn't before the Court.

23 So my thought was the Government -- I assume you have
24 evidence you want to put on.

25 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: And we can go ahead and proceed. Very
2 good.

3 MR. SILVERMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: And then I assume -- we have our court
5 interpreter here. Is your client --

6 MR. DAVIS: Your Honor, Julio Ramos does not speak
7 English, but we have the translator.

8 THE COURT: Okay. And, Ms. Ailshire, have you
9 already been sworn in?

10 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, Your Honor. Good morning.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you for your service.

12 THE INTERPRETER: Thank you.

13 THE COURT: Okay. So if everyone will have a seat,
14 I'll have the Government call their first witness.

15 MR. GONZALEZ: Your Honor, the Government calls
16 Special Agent Marcus West.

17 THE COURT: Sir, if you'll raise your right hand and
18 be sworn in.

19 (Witness was sworn.)

20 THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Gonzalez.

21 MARCUS WEST, GOVERNMENT'S WITNESS, SWORN,

22 D I R E C T E X A M I N A T I O N

23 BY MR. GONZALEZ:

24 Q. Sir, would you please state your full name for the Court
25 and the record?

1 A. My name is Marcus West. M-A-R-C-U-S, last name W-E-S-T.

2 Q. How are you employed?

3 A. A special agent with the Drug Enforcement
4 Administration.

5 Q. And where are you presently stationed?

6 A. Dallas, Texas.

7 Q. Now, pursuant to your duties with DEA, are you familiar
8 with the following individuals: First, an individual by the
9 name of Jonathan Ramos?

10 A. I am.

11 Q. Do you see that individual in the courtroom today?

12 A. I do.

13 Q. Would you point to where he's seated and indicate an
14 article of clothing that he's wearing?

15 A. A light gray/dark gray pinstripe jumpsuit with the lime
16 green mask.

17 MR. GONZALEZ: Your Honor, may the record reflect
18 that this witness has identified the Defendant?

19 THE COURT: The record will so reflect.

20 BY MR. GONZALEZ:

21 Q. And are you also familiar, based on your participation
22 with DEA, familiar with an individual by the name of Julio
23 Ramos?

24 A. I am.

25 Q. Do you see that individual in the courtroom today?

1 A. I do.

2 Q. Could you point to where he's seated and indicate an
3 article of clothing that he's wearing or some description of
4 him?

5 A. Okay. A dark gray/light gray jumpsuit with the baby
6 blue mask on at the table in front of me.

7 MR. GONZALEZ: Your Honor, may the record reflect
8 that the witness has identified the Defendant Julio Ramos?

9 THE COURT: The record will so reflect.

10 BY MR. GONZALEZ:

11 Q. Now, sir, are you familiar with the facts that led to
12 the indictment as well as the arrest of both of these
13 Defendants?

14 A. I am.

15 Q. Have you prepared a PowerPoint presentation to assist in
16 your presentation and summary of the investigation and the
17 case?

18 A. I have.

19 Q. Would it be of assistance to you to present this to the
20 Court?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Now, tell us when or give us a brief summary of your
23 investigation, basically informing us when it began and how
24 it progressed.

25 A. Okay. As the PowerPoint states, in July of 2019 DEA,

1 myself as the case agent, started investigating a subject by
2 the name of Rafael Gallegos, Jr. as the leader/organizer of
3 a Sinaloa cartel based here in Dallas, Texas, also with
4 outreaching arms of supply all over the United States and
5 also including California.

6 So one of the main locations where Mr. Gallegos lived
7 was in Plano, Texas, and that's a picture of Mr. Gallegos
8 there. He is a rap musician and that is his recording
9 label, and that's a picture of him from social media on the
10 couch there in front. And that's one of the main targets of
11 our investigation was Rafael Gallegos.

12 Q. And where is Mr. Gallegos, Jr. presently?

13 A. So as part of this investigation, he fled to Mexico.
14 He's in Durango, Mexico right now with many other members of
15 this organization that are all known to be investigated.
16 They fled to Durango, Mexico to a ranch down there.

17 Q. And is Mr. Gallegos, Jr. aware of the investigation and
18 is he aware of his indictment?

19 A. He is aware of the investigation and his indictment.

20 Q. Okay. Please proceed.

21 A. Is that the second slide? I believe it is.

22 So -- okay. So the next part of the investigation we
23 were able to cultivate a cooperating defendant. I'm going
24 to label the cooperating defendant as CD No. 1, as you see
25 in this slide right here.

1 That cooperating defendant identified members of the
2 Gallegos drug trafficking organization and their specific
3 roles. Specifically, CD-1 provided agents financial
4 documents, checkbooks, bank deposit receipts, deposit slips,
5 money wire receipts that identified Julio and Jonathan Ramos
6 as money launderers for the Gallegos DTO and said they were
7 based in California.

8 So as you can see there on the right-hand side of the
9 slip, those are actually Bank of America checkbooks that
10 were here in Dallas, Texas, used by the cooperating
11 defendant to write checks to deposit into what I call a
12 funnel account, a Bank of America account where they would
13 deposit drug proceeds into the account and that money would
14 be funneled to California and -- and withdrawn in California
15 to assure safe passage from Dallas, Texas to Los Angeles, to
16 avoid law enforcement detection.

17 So those checkbooks right there, as you can see, the
18 name Julio Ramos, Jonathan Ramos, and the address there in
19 Corona, California where they live.

20 And then the one below is the Ramos Rental Properties
21 checkbook. They were using those bank accounts to funnel
22 money from Dallas to California.

23 Another example of some of the financial documents
24 seized from the cooperating defendant are these PLS
25 cashier's checks, and you can see they're in increments of

1 \$2,500. They're often made "pay to the order of" and they
2 were blank at the time when they purchased them from
3 MoneyGrams here in Dallas, Texas.

4 The common pattern that we saw was that they would buy
5 these in the thousands of dollars in \$2,500 increments here
6 in the Dallas, Texas area, and then they would go to the
7 Bank of America and deposit the drug proceeds or these
8 cashier checks into Jonathan Ramos's and Julio Ramos's bank
9 accounts.

10 And here's a copy of one that you can see is for \$2,500
11 purchased on June 18th of 2019.

12 Again, going with more examples, you can see here
13 actually stubs from the cashier's checks from June 19th,
14 2019, other examples.

15 But in this -- in this slide right here, you can see
16 the Bank of America deposit receipts there with the account
17 numbers 6691 and 3552. I circled the two different accounts
18 that they would deposit thousands of dollars into.

19 Again, it was drug traffickers here in the Dallas,
20 Texas area that worked for Gallegos that were directed to
21 deposit money into these accounts, and the accounts were
22 6691 and 3552, and that money would be funneled then to
23 California.

24 Sorry. There you go.

25 So the next step is I obtained federal grand jury

1 subpoenas for Bank of America and for account 3552 and 6991.
2 And the first account, 3552, was identified as a bank
3 account owned by Jonathan Ramos. You'll see here that is
4 his -- this is called a signature card, and that's Jonathan
5 Ramos's signature as the bank -- they have some more
6 identifying information for Jonathan Ramos, Social Security
7 number, his address and whatnot. But that's the signature
8 card there that identified Jonathan Ramos as the owner of
9 account 3552.

10 So, again, we proceeded with the grand jury subpoena,
11 and this is a signature card for 6691, and as you can see on
12 this screen, this shot right here on this slide, Julio
13 Ramos, sole proprietor, doing business as Julio Ramos Rental
14 Properties.

15 And as I testified to earlier, those checkbooks that
16 the cooperating defendant had, one of the checkbooks was in
17 the name of Julio Ramos Rental Properties and Julio Ramos.

18 Again, that's 6691 account information from Bank of
19 America.

20 That's just another slide with the signature on it for
21 Julio Ramos.

22 Again, we continued to do this investigation and
23 started analyzing accounts from probably about 2018 from
24 bank accounts for both Julio and Jonathan Ramos in Bank of
25 America, and I was able to estimate approximately a quarter

1 million at that time that has been funneled through bank
2 activity going through that account for Jonathan and Julio
3 Ramos.

4 You can see here a common pattern that they're doing is
5 they're doing these deposits of cashier's checks. You can
6 see \$8,550. Those deposits, again, were made in Dallas,
7 Texas and the cash was withdrawn in California.

8 Another example of just the counter credits or the
9 deposits that were going into the Bank of America account,
10 and you can see this is Julio Ramos's, and I just want to
11 give another example. Again, you see this throughout. For
12 years they've been doing this. But deposits made in Dallas,
13 Texas, and this one is \$2,500, August of 2019. As you move
14 down you see another one made on the 21st and 22nd of 2,200
15 and 5,700.

16 Again, this information comes from analysis of these
17 bank records but also supported by cooperating defendants in
18 this case, multiple cooperating defendants that told us this
19 is what they did, and they're orders directly from Rafael
20 Gallegos.

21 So as we move forward, you know, we corroborate the
22 cooperating defendants even more by looking at these PLS
23 cashier checks. As you can see here, this is actually one
24 that was completed and filled out, but they made the "pay to
25 the order of" to Jonathan Ramos for \$1,750.

1 Jose Ruiz at the bottom is identified as a subject in
2 this -- he's a drug trafficker that has been indicted in
3 this case and has been arrested in this case, and his name
4 is Jose Ruiz. And his role was to collect drug proceeds,
5 purchase these PLS MoneyGram cashier's checks and deposit
6 them in Bank of America accounts for Julio and Jonathan
7 Ramos to ensure safe passage from Dallas to California so
8 they could be withdrawn and given to Rafael Gallegos.

9 Another example of a payment, a MoneyGram PLS cashier's
10 check to Jonathan Ramos. "Pay to the order of" is Eduardo
11 Martinez. He is a leader/organizer here in the Dallas,
12 Texas area. We also know him as Lalo. I'll testify about
13 him later on in this -- in my testimony.

14 But Eduardo Martinez, again, was a leader/organizer and
15 responsible for sending money to the Ramoses in California,
16 and that amount was 2000.

17 Again, I just put a few examples up here, but we have
18 multiple, multiple slides I could put up here of a lot of
19 these transactions with these cashiers checks going to the
20 Ramoses in California.

21 So my analysis, I did the Excel spreadsheet, as you can
22 see here, and I just want to give an example of some of the
23 deposits. If you look to the left, it's October of 2018.
24 You can see the arrows are pointing to two deposits there,
25 but specifically, if you go right here, the Webb Chapel

1 address, again, cooperating defendants were making deposits
2 at this Bank of America off of Webb Chapel branch, and you
3 can see here there's another one up there.

4 Then as you go down below, the arrow pointing right
5 here, again, they would deposit those amounts in there,
6 which were 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000. So you see this and they
7 do that to avoid law enforcement detection. They want to
8 stay under -- they're structuring the payments to these Bank
9 of America accounts, again, to assure safe passage of this
10 money to California for Rafael Gallegos.

11 And I'll testify to it later. They had a really
12 intricate pattern of -- of drug trafficking. They had it
13 down pretty well of the patterns that they had, whether it
14 was money or actually the drug distribution being imported
15 in from Mexico. So this is a method that they used putting
16 money into the Ramos's account.

17 So in the investigation we were able to identify three
18 subjects here. The first one is going to be Juan Felipe
19 Valencia-Aristizabal. We called him Columbo or he's known
20 as Columbo.

21 The second one is Eduardo Martinez-Gonzalez. He's
22 known as Lalo. And then Jose Alfredo Ramirez, known as
23 Fello.

24 Their names were also -- they were responsible for
25 obtaining those PLS cashiers checks and sending them to

1 California.

2 And on the left there, Valencia-Aristizabal is a
3 distributor of cocaine, marijuana, heroin, ice and
4 laundering money here in Dallas and collecting drug
5 proceeds.

6 In the middle there is that leader/organizer that I
7 testified to earlier, Mr. Martinez-Gonzalez. He was running
8 the show here and responsible for the Chicago distributions,
9 of cocaine going to Chicago.

10 On the right was his right-hand man, Mr. Jose Alfredo
11 Ramirez, that was responsible for collecting drug proceeds
12 and also receiving loads of cocaine from Mexico and sending
13 large amounts of drug proceeds back to Mexico.

14 All three subjects were indicted and all three subjects
15 have been arrested, and they're in the judicial pending
16 status right now.

17 So in November of 2019 we cultivated another
18 cooperating defendant, and I'm going to call that
19 cooperating defendant CD No. 2.

20 We executed a search warrant at his residence in
21 Carrollton, Texas, and we seized multiple drug ledgers and
22 financial documents from his residence. And you can see on
23 the right there's an example of a drug ledger, and I have
24 the amount of one drug ledger on May 17th they had a running
25 amount of \$516,000, basically half a million dollars.

1 You can see the names listed in the drug ledger as
2 Rafa. Rafa is going to be Rafael Gallegos, being the leader
3 of this organization, who is in Durango, Mexico right now,
4 who has fled prosecution.

5 You can see other people listed here, Flacco. Flacco
6 is going to be Eduardo Martinez Gonzalez. So it goes on.
7 You see muchachos. That's cocaine. You have heroin listed
8 in there. Heroin is going to be Denalis. So you kind of
9 get a feeling of the drug ledgers that we seized from CD No.
10 2.

11 We continued to analyze these drug ledgers, and this is
12 just another analysis that we seized from the cooperating
13 defendant in Carrollton, Texas. But for a year and a half,
14 a 1.5 year period, we estimated that this drug trafficking
15 organization distributed \$5.7 million, or collected
16 \$5.7 million in drug proceeds. I'm sorry. That's a two
17 year period.

18 And -- and the cooperating defendant number two said
19 that that's just a snapshot of what they did, because we
20 were only able at that search warrant to seize 16 drug
21 ledgers. He said they had volumes and volumes of drug
22 ledgers that he would usually shred or burn to get rid of.
23 But we were able to get 16 of his and add up 5.6 million in
24 drug proceeds over a two year period that were sent either
25 to Mexico or to the Ramoses in California.

1 A picture of this with the search warrant was a
2 vehicle. This vehicle was Mr. Julio Ramos's Mercedes that
3 was parked in the driveway in Carrollton, Texas. Took a
4 picture of that there, the California license plate there
5 for Mr. Ramos. So his vehicle was here.

6 We also identified that Mr. Ramos in this investigation
7 assisted Mr. Gallegos for purchasing high priced vehicles,
8 such as Cadillac Escalades and Mercedes and whatnot, and
9 also residences in California.

10 So they owned a lot of properties in California, and
11 when I say "they", mostly the Gallegoses, that were managed
12 by Mr. Julio Ramos and Jonathan Ramos.

13 So as you move along in the search warrant, we were
14 able to look into the CD No. 2's phone and we were able to
15 extract a lot of drug ledgers, a lot of conversations, text
16 messages and photos. But specifically, on June 19th we --
17 we knew that Mr. Gallegos was in California, and he was
18 there specifically to arrange a 30-kilo methamphetamine
19 transaction to get to -- to purchase 30 kilos of
20 methamphetamine and deliver that from California to Dallas,
21 Texas.

22 And in that we were able to see a conversation that Mr.
23 Gallegos was having with CD No. 2, and in this conversation
24 here was an audio, and I was going to play that audio
25 conversation for the Court and -- of him directing the

1 cooperating defendant to put money in Mr. Julios's account.

2 (Audio recording was played in Spanish.

3 THE WITNESS: Okay. So basically in that
4 conversation that is Rafael Gallegos sending an audio voice
5 message to the cooperating defendant, directing the cooperating
6 defendant to put -- basically he has \$15,000 in drug proceeds.
7 He wants him to break it up. He wants him to put \$5,000 in Don
8 Julio's account but break it up into \$5,000 increments.

9 And he confuses Mr. Don Julio with a subject we know as
10 Abuelo. Abuelo was also indicted in this investigation.
11 But they're both old men, and they refer to both of them as
12 Abuelos also.

13 But in this situation he specifically says Don Julio,
14 and speaking to a cooperating defendant, he did deposit that
15 money into the Bank of America account for Don Julio but
16 also sent more money to other people in California waiting
17 to receive it to purchase the 30 kilos of methamphetamine
18 that was out there.

19 So after that seizure in November of 2019, DEA starts
20 investigating the group here in Dallas, Texas. We
21 identified places in Plano, Texas, McKinney, Texas, Lucas,
22 Texas, Carrollton, Texas and Dallas, Texas and the
23 surrounding areas, and we identified the group, as I
24 testified to earlier.

25 This is Rafael Gallegos' drug trafficking numbers here,

1 and the common way that they would bring the drugs into the
2 United States is in that black trailer, but they had not
3 only one black trailer, they had five black trailers like
4 that that would cross over the United States and go to a
5 house in Richardson, Texas. In that trailer right there it
6 would be loaded with approximately 40 kilos of cocaine and
7 sometimes a mixture of heroin, and they would do that on a
8 weekly basis.

9 Not only would they bring it here to Dallas, Texas,
10 they had another trailer that would go directly to Chicago,
11 so this operation involved probably a week, I would say,
12 approximately 80 to 100 kilos of cocaine and heroin going to
13 Dallas and also Chicago.

14 We were on surveillance here and we were able to take
15 photos of this -- of Gallegos's group here bringing in the
16 drugs. And, again, I'll testify later, after they sold the
17 drugs, where the money would go.

18 So here's -- a surveillance of Mr. Martinez was
19 included in my slide earlier. He's a leader/organizer. As
20 you can see, that weighted backpack there and the weighted
21 bag to the right there, they would collect drug proceeds at
22 that house in Richardson, Texas.

23 They would also bring cover load material. As you can
24 see in the slide on the right, that's Mr. Ramirez bringing
25 in a washer and dryer. So they would bring in washers and

1 dryers and they would take the washers and dryers apart and
2 put drug proceeds in them for concealment and send it to
3 Mexico in those trailers.

4 Again, more pictures in Richardson, Texas at a stash
5 house. You can see Mr. Martinez there with Alan and
6 Cynthia. Both of them have been indicted and arrested in
7 this investigation. That's where they would count the
8 money, package the money, and also pick up the drugs when
9 the trailer was offloaded.

10 There to the right you can see them taking the washer
11 away to put on the trailer, and that washer is loaded with
12 drug proceeds.

13 Here's more surveillance photos of us following the
14 leader/organizer Mr. Martinez into a Home Depot. In that
15 Home Depot, again they would -- all week, that's all they
16 would do is buy packaging material, cover load material, and
17 we followed them back to the Richardson house.

18 As you can see in the back hatch of the vehicle and
19 they're unloading items to put on the trailer to put money
20 on the trailer and take money off and take drugs off.

21 So on June 11th we indicted several members of this
22 drug trafficking organization here in the Eastern District
23 of Texas.

24 On June 18th we decided, because of COVID, that we were
25 going to focus in on a smaller group of people because of

1 manpower issues. So on June 18th we arrested approximately
2 I would say 15 to 18 Defendants in this case, and including
3 Mr.-- Mr. Julio Ramos and Jonathan Ramos.

4 And on that particular day for that operation we seized
5 40 kilograms of cocaine and heroin, 23 firearms,
6 approximately 3.5 million in currency, and 4 million in real
7 property. Some of the property is located in California.

8 I testified earlier to Mr. Martinez. Here's a picture
9 of him up close, Eduardo Martinez-Gonzalez. He has a bunch
10 of aliases that he uses, as you can see there in the slide.
11 He's a DTO leader/organizer and he resided at 3850 West
12 Northwest Highway 1414 in Dallas, Texas. We executed a
13 search warrant at his residence on June 18th of 2020.

14 You can see here in this slide the aliases. We
15 recovered or seized two driver's license. The female on the
16 left is Gabriela Robles, who is his girlfriend that resided
17 with him. She was also indicted in this case for money
18 laundering.

19 But these are the IDs that were found there, and
20 they're fictitious Texas driver's licenses that they would
21 use for financial documents.

22 Specifically, and most importantly, we seized a Bank of
23 America receipt inside Mr. Martinez-Gonzalez's residence or
24 apartment, the stash house. You can see that I put a
25 rectangular box around it and it's for account 3552 that

1 belongs to Jonathan Ramos. That was located inside the
2 apartment for \$3,250. So they were still wiring money and
3 drug proceeds to the Ramoses on June 1st of 2020.

4 To further support that, we seized a drug ledger inside
5 the apartment, and you can see 1 Junio, June 1st, Monday,
6 and then a deposit to 3250. That supports that -- that Bank
7 of America receipt that I showed you earlier.

8 And you can see off to the right there that he had
9 collected basically three quarters of a million dollars on
10 June 2nd. And, again, that money is being sent in those
11 trailers and also wired back to the Ramoses in California
12 for the drug trafficking organization.

13 Here's another example of their methods and means of
14 getting money to the Ramoses and into Mexico. Here's just a
15 small snapshot of Mr. Martinez's -- this is his alias of him
16 sending these increment amounts of money back to Mexico and
17 also to California. And you can see they do it in amounts
18 under a thousand dollars to avoid law enforcement detection
19 again.

20 But we're able to see and add up hundreds of thousands
21 of dollars that Mr. Martinez sent to either California or to
22 Mexico for the drug trafficking organization. And I think
23 up above I typed in \$300,000 approximately.

24 As you continue in the search warrant, we seized large
25 sums of cash, approximately 125,000 U.S. currency seized

1 from Mr. Martinez's apartment, with the drug ledger and also
2 that Bank of America receipt from Jonathan Ramos's account.

3 This is a stash house, the Gallegos stash house that we
4 hit on that particular date, and we seized approximately
5 half a million from the stash house. You can see all the
6 cocaine lined up there.

7 Again, all those drugs and all that money was processed
8 and counted, and for example, the money was delivered either
9 to the trailer or to the Ramoses in California.

10 Seized from that drug stash house was a drug ledger,
11 and you can see the running amount there I have. We're in
12 the millions of dollars that they collected. That is a one
13 week period that they're collecting approximately
14 1.5 million in cash, and it's ongoing weekly that they're
15 moving approximately 5 million to 6 million a month in cash.
16 And there is a drug ledger that we seized from the residence
17 of the stash house for Gallegos.

18 I showed you earlier the black trailer. Here's the
19 black trailer, and on that particular day we were able to
20 seize that black trailer before it went down to Mexico, and
21 in the black trailer is a water heater. You can see the
22 square cut in the water heater. Inside that water heater
23 was approximately a million dollars in currency that was
24 being smuggled down to Mexico.

25 So it just shows you kind of the volume of cash that

1 they're doing in this drug trafficking organization, that on
2 that particular day, again, we seized 3.5 million in cash
3 from them.

4 Just the processing, here's the money and the -- and
5 the blocks and bricks inside the water heater.

6 As we continue the investigation, I find out that Julio
7 Ramos has a warrant for removal or deportation from the
8 United States. I believe that he is a citizen of Peru. So
9 I contacted ICE and confirmed that, and that's a copy of his
10 warrant of removal or deportation.

11 Then, again, I get an immigration detainer for
12 Mr. Julio Ramos, an ICE detainer, because he is not here
13 legally in the United States.

14 And that's pretty much the slide slow. Well, let me --
15 we've got one more, I believe.

16 Okay. So right after the arrest, this is Rafael
17 Gallegos sending social media posts to DEA. Of course, you
18 can see what he's saying right there. But what's
19 interesting is a lot of people in this organization he had
20 contacted, and some people that told us, informants and
21 cooperators, that he was trying to get people to go down to
22 Mexico to live on his ranch to avoid law enforcement, to
23 have safe passage. They could stay with him down there,
24 and -- and some people took him up on that. So a lot of
25 people are down on his ranch in Durango, Mexico. They have

1 fled down there.

2 And he has hired a lot of people up here, for a lot of
3 people up here, as far as paying financial money for
4 families and stuff to take care of them.

5 So the method and means are there. I mean, he is
6 recruiting people to go down to Mexico. And this is a
7 social media post that he posted during -- right after the
8 arrests.

9 And I believe that's it.

10 Q. Now, you talked about millions of dollars being
11 transacted by this organization, and you focused in on the
12 two Defendants here, their quantity of money that was sent
13 to them being hundreds of thousands of dollars as well or
14 millions of dollars?

15 A. Millions.

16 Q. Okay. And in order for a cartel such as this or an
17 organization such as this to allow individuals to have
18 access to that quantity of money, would they have to be a
19 trusted member of that organization?

20 A. A very trusted member of the organization, to the point
21 that, I mean, that -- that money can disappear, and for
22 years it's been working like I testified to earlier. The
23 different type of methods that they had, they had it down to
24 a science, and part of that was funneling money and wiring
25 money to the Ramoses there. And they were very trusted to

1 receive that money and disburse that money and get it back
2 down to Mexico.

3 Q. And along with being a trusted member, and as you said,
4 involving large quantities of money, if money goes missing,
5 if money is lost, is there repercussions to that?

6 A. Yes, there is.

7 Q. Does that place those individuals as well as any other
8 individuals around them in jeopardy or in some sort of
9 danger?

10 A. They are.

11 Q. Now, you also talked about encouragement by the
12 individuals in Mexico for other co-conspirators or
13 co-defendants to flee so that they wouldn't be arrested and
14 they wouldn't give up their knowledge of the organization,
15 is that correct?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. Have you seen multiple instances of that where
18 individuals in Mexico, the leader/organizers in Mexico are
19 encouraging the individuals here in the United States that
20 they feel are going to be arrested to flee?

21 A. Yes, and this case is a great example of that. I
22 believe that most of them were U.S. citizens that have fled
23 to Mexico. I believe that we have eight or nine that are
24 down there in Mexico right now, and we just caught one
25 crossing over recently, I believe last week, so he fled also

1 to Mexico to avoid prosecution. But asked to go down there
2 because of Mr. Gallegos.

3 Q. And you talked about also co-defendants, plural,
4 identifying these Defendants as money launderers for the
5 organization. Are there multiple individuals that have
6 identified these two Defendants as money launderers?

7 A. Yes, there are multiple Defendants, yes.

8 Q. And you indicated that there have been multiple seizures
9 of drug ledgers during this investigation, is that correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And have those drug ledgers been -- have those drug
12 ledgers been consistent and do they corroborate the
13 information that these cooperators are giving you in regards
14 to these two Defendants?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you talked about over \$5.7 million during a two year
17 period. Was that consistent with the information in your
18 investigation, as well as your seizure of \$3.1 million?

19 A. So, the 5.7 million was from on or about 2018 to 2019,
20 and then there was a gap there and we were only able to
21 seize recent drug ledgers for a four month period, so we're
22 talking close to \$10 million in approximately a two year
23 period.

24 Q. And this is just a snapshot of their activity, correct?

25 A. Just a snapshot. We didn't get all the drug ledgers.

1 Q. The photographs that you showed, you showed the trailers
2 that were coming on a weekly basis with over 40 kilos and
3 taking back millions of dollars in bulk as well, correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. So it's safe to say that this organization is well
6 resourced and could encourage individuals to go to Mexico
7 and could supply them with the resources or the wherewithal
8 to stay in Mexico for a long, long period of time?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And what cartel is this particular organization
11 associated with or working with or is a part of?

12 A. So this cartel is a part of a confirmed Sinaloa Cartel.

13 Q. Sinaloa Cartel, that's the same cartel Chapo Guzman was
14 operating prior to his arrest?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. And who's operating that cartel now in Mexico?

17 A. Mayo, and also the Chapitos, which are Chapo's two sons.

18 Q. Mayo Zambada and Chapo Guzman's sons are now at the head
19 of the Sinaloa Cartel, correct?

20 A. Yes, and the Gallegoses are right next to them.

21 Q. Okay. And those are the leaders that are giving
22 directions to the two individuals here for the delivery of
23 money?

24 A. So the Gallegoses are right next to Chapo's sons and
25 also El Mayo Zambada, so Gallegoses are directly -- are

1 providing direction to both the Ramoses and Rafael Gallegos,
2 Jr.

3 Q. Okay. Now, is the Sinaloa Cartel a violent
4 organization?

5 A. It is a very violent organization.

6 Q. And do they kill indiscriminately? Have they killed
7 indiscriminately in Mexico as well as the United States?

8 A. So they -- they will kill law enforcement, U.S. law
9 enforcement, Mexican law enforcement, military, rival gang
10 members, and intimidation to family members. But
11 specifically in this case, they have reached out and made
12 threats to the DEA regarding informants that are
13 cooperating.

14 Q. Now, is there any information that they are involved in
15 any kind of arms smuggling?

16 A. That is correct, they are.

17 Q. What types of arms and where are they getting the
18 resources to purchase arms?

19 A. So initially with this investigation we made a large
20 cache seizure of firearms that were going back to Mexico.
21 And we were able to find out through a cooperating defendant
22 that the other part of their money making scheme is to
23 supply the Sinaloa Cartel with large volumes of firearms and
24 ammunition and training gear, such as Barrett 50 caliber
25 sniper rifles and AK47s and handguns such as Glocks and

1 Berettas.

2 So we did find a drug ledger that confirmed the
3 cooperating defendant's statements and we saw that they had
4 smuggled approximately 150 firearms from the United States
5 to Durango, Mexico, and those firearms were handed over to
6 the Sinaloa Cartel to continue this ongoing drug war and
7 fight law enforcement and rival cartel members.

8 Q. And that's the same organization that these two
9 Defendants are working with and assisting with their drug
10 smuggling activities?

11 A. Well, even better than that, I mean, if you -- to help
12 you understand, some of the weapons -- the money that is
13 made from the weapons that are in the drug ledgers were sent
14 to Mr. Ramos, Jonathan and Julio Ramos, in California. So
15 two ways of smuggling the money to get down to Mexico, but
16 they're making money off of that.

17 Q. And I think you touched on it briefly. You talked about
18 there being assets here in the Dallas area as well as in
19 California, and you talked about real properties.

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Has your investigation shown that the Defendants here
22 were involved in purchasing or being used as straw
23 purchasers for real property?

24 A. The information came from cooperating defendants. We
25 researched the information and we saw that they were making

1 multiple real property purchases in the California area. So
2 we saw a lot of properties purchased and a lot of properties
3 sold by the Ramoses, yes.

4 Q. And I think one of the businesses that you identified
5 for the Defendants was involving real property?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. So using -- basically using that business associated
8 with them to purchase properties for the drug trafficking
9 organization?

10 A. According to the sources, that they purchased or
11 concealed drug proceeds in properties in California through
12 the assistance of the Ramoses.

13 Q. And I know you've been investigating for quite some
14 time. Have you been able to find all the properties and
15 seize all the properties?

16 A. I have not. I believe we have just one property so far.
17 By the time we got there, the properties had already sold
18 and exchanged. Like we had an unwitting party that
19 purchased the property, and it was like maybe three months
20 too late that the transaction occurred. But I believe there
21 was one property we were able to look at.

22 Q. And based on that, based on the fact that you haven't
23 identified all the properties, would there be any concern in
24 your mind that they could use the resources of selling those
25 properties to flee, and speaking specifically of these two

1 Defendants?

2 A. Yes, I believe that.

3 Q. Now, looking at this investigation in its totality,
4 based on what you know of this organization, the violence of
5 this organization as well as the individuals that have fled,
6 have you formed an opinion as to whether these Defendants
7 would be a flight risk and a risk to the community?

8 A. I have.

9 Q. And what's your opinion and how do you come to that
10 opinion?

11 A. Well, for example, with Mr. Julio Ramos, I feel that, A,
12 he's got a warrant, an ICE detainer, and he has methods and
13 means to flee to South America. And also, he still has
14 contact with family members down there. I've seen through
15 money wire transfers that he does wire money to family
16 members in South America, but he's also a citizen down there
17 and not a citizen of the United States.

18 He's looking at some pretty serious charges up here for
19 money laundering. So, yes, I think he is a flight risk.

20 Also, being a danger too, in connection to this cartel,
21 being directed by the main leader/organizers in Durango,
22 Mexico that are Sinaloa Cartel members that are right below
23 the main leaders of the organization, I believe that that is
24 very dangerous, and dangerous for the community.

25 Also, with Mr. Jonathan Ramos, I feel that his access

1 to large sums of currency -- we didn't get all the currency.
2 I don't know if there's still some out there. We seized
3 some bank accounts, but I just think -- also his access,
4 having these leader/organizers in Dallas, Texas sending him
5 money directly, not to Julio Ramos but more to Jonathan
6 Ramos, that he was collecting those cashier's checks and
7 having a direct relationship with the right-hand man of the
8 Sinaloa Cartel. Yes, I do think he's a danger to the
9 community, and that's the basis of my opinion.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: Your Honor, that's all I have. I'll
11 pass the witness.

12 THE COURT: Cross examination?

13 MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 C R O S S E X A M I N A T I O N

15 BY MR. DAVIS:

16 Q. Good morning, Agent West. Can you hear me okay?

17 A. Yes, sir, I can.

18 Q. Can you tell me what your involvement was in this case?

19 A. I was case agent.

20 Q. So you're familiar with the reports that have been
21 written in the case, is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you're also familiar, obviously, from the bank
24 records, financial records that have been reviewed, correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And are you aware that Mr. Ramos was arrested in
2 California June 18th, 2020?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. He was arrested at -- at his residence, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And there was no evidence during that arrest that he
7 tried to run, correct?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. There was no evidence that he tried to hide?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. We saw a lot of photos of large amounts of currency,
12 drugs, stash house, vehicles. All those photos are from
13 Dallas and the surrounding area, correct?

14 A. Those photos are, yes.

15 Q. None of those photos are from California, correct?

16 A. No.

17 Q. All right. And so when Mr. Ramos was arrested at his
18 residence, did anyone recover large amounts of currency?

19 A. No.

20 Q. What about jewelry?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Handguns?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Assault rifles?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Cocaine?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Marijuana?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Drug ledgers?

6 A. No.

7 Q. All right. And so basically he was taken into custody
8 without incident at his residence in California, correct?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. All right. As far as the indictment goes, there are
11 nine counts in the indictment, right?

12 A. I believe so.

13 Q. And how many Defendants are there? Approximately 40?

14 A. Superseding, now 74.

15 Q. Seventy-four?

16 A. Approximately.

17 Q. Seventy-four. And some of those are in custody and some
18 of those are not, right?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. All right. Let me talk to you about what he's actually
21 charged with. The first count is a conspiracy charge to
22 possess with intent to manufacture, distribute
23 methamphetamine. He is not charged in that count, correct?

24 A. I do not believe so.

25 Q. All right. Count two charges conspiracy to possess with

1 intent to distribute cocaine, correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Okay. He is charged there. What is the evidence that
4 he himself manufactured cocaine?

5 A. He participated as a money launderer in the conspiracy
6 for the cocaine drug proceeds, to receive them in his Bank
7 of America accounts and to distribute -- to assist with the
8 distribution of cocaine for this drug trafficking
9 organization.

10 Q. Right. But my question is, what is the evidence that he
11 himself actually was involved in any kind of manufacturing
12 of cocaine?

13 A. Um, well, are you saying actually -- when you say
14 manufacturing, do you mean like bricking it up and --

15 Q. Sure, yes, sir.

16 A. Well, he was involved in the funneling of the drug
17 proceeds through his bank account.

18 Q. Right, but that wasn't my question. I'm talking about
19 manufacturing, bricking up, packaging cocaine, himself.
20 What evidence is there in this case of that?

21 A. The money laundering.

22 Q. Okay. Do you have any evidence that he himself
23 transported cocaine?

24 A. At this time, no, but I just played a phone call with
25 the purchase of the methamphetamine in California that he

1 was participating in that -- that operation there of getting
2 it from California to Dallas, Texas.

3 Q. Do you have any evidence that he himself transported
4 cocaine?

5 A. At this time, no.

6 Q. All right. How about possessing cocaine, do you have
7 any evidence that he actually possessed any cocaine?

8 A. At this time, no.

9 Q. All right. Charge three, manufacturing and distribution
10 of methamphetamine, cocaine or heroin. The same questions
11 would apply there but we have some other drugs,
12 methamphetamine and heroin. Do you have any evidence that
13 he actually transported any methamphetamine or heroin?

14 A. When you say transport, like driving it? What do you
15 mean?

16 Q. Yes. Well, what's your definition of transport?

17 A. I mean, working as a person that maybe smuggles it
18 across the border.

19 Q. Sure. Driving one of those trucks that you showed a
20 photo of where there's trailers attached. Do you have any
21 evidence of him doing any of that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. All right. Do you have any evidence of him possessing
24 any of that, heroin or methamphetamine?

25 A. So, according to our cooperating individuals in this

1 case, that he rented the houses that were basically in his
2 name in California and that they used those houses as stash
3 houses for methamphetamine, on that particular audio call
4 that I played, coming from our cooperating sources.

5 Q. There was -- there was a conversation that you played
6 for the Court. There wasn't anything in that conversation
7 about him going to houses, stash houses and seeing drugs,
8 was there?

9 A. Well, what I testified to earlier is I said it came from
10 a confidential source, a cooperating defendant that told us
11 that information.

12 Q. What did the cooperating source tell you?

13 A. That Mr. Julio Ramos rented the house or purchased the
14 house, the stash house, for the organization for Mr.
15 Gallegos to store drugs in that house.

16 Q. Okay. My question is, do you have any evidence that he
17 actually possessed any of those drugs himself?

18 A. Well, that was his house. It was a stash house.

19 Q. But he would have to know the drugs were there, right?

20 A. Well, I don't have that right now, but, I mean, he
21 purchased the house. It was his house. He allowed Mr.
22 Gallegos to keep drugs at that house.

23 Q. Right, but that doesn't mean he possessed the drugs,
24 correct?

25 A. Well, I mean, it is his house, you know. I mean, he's

1 keeping -- there's drugs there at the house.

2 Q. If someone rents a house to somebody else, are they
3 responsible for knowing everything that goes on in the
4 house?

5 A. But when you add the totality of the circumstances of
6 him being a money launderer. I mean, let's put it together,
7 money launderer, money going through his account, and then
8 you add in, he has a house there in California that Gallegos
9 is using as a stash house. You put it all together, yeah, I
10 can see that. It's not a landlord type of situation there.

11 Q. Right. Well, let's talk about that and we'll talk about
12 the laundering in a little bit.

13 There is -- charge five is that conspiracy to possess
14 with intent to distribute heroin. He's not charged in that
15 count, right?

16 A. If you say so. I can't -- I can't recall right now.

17 Q. Well, you're the case agent, right?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Can I see a copy of the indictment?

21 Q. Sure.

22 A. There's 74 people indicted.

23 Q. I understand. But have you reviewed the superseding
24 indictment before you testified today?

25 A. Approximately a week ago.

1 Q. Okay. Well, I'll represent to you he is not charged in
2 that.

3 A. Okay. Thank you.

4 Q. And you know that there are several firearm counts in
5 the indictment, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a
6 drug trafficking crime, a continuing criminal enterprise
7 count, conspiracy to possess a firearm in furtherance of a
8 crime of violence or drug trafficking. He's not charged in
9 any of those counts?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Okay. Now, let me talk a little bit about the accounts
12 and things that you testified about. Basically in this
13 case, as pertains to Julio Ramos, there are two bank
14 accounts, correct, that you reviewed?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. There's one account that's in the name of Julio
17 and Jonathan Ramos, right?

18 A. No, there's one bank account in Jonathan Ramos.

19 Q. Okay. There's an account for Julio Ramos Rental
20 Properties, right?

21 A. Well, I -- I viewed it as -- I believe the slide had
22 Julio Ramos doing business as Julio Ramos Rental Properties.

23 Q. Correct. And then there's another account that's in the
24 name of both Julio Ramos and Jonathan Ramos, and then
25 there's another account that's just in the name of Jonathan

1 Ramos. Do you recall that?

2 A. Yes, I do recall that.

3 Q. And I just wanted to refresh your memory on that. Okay.

4 And those were all at the Bank of America, right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you can see that there in those bank records that
7 you reviewed that Mr. Ramos apparently is -- there were
8 payments that were being made to Mr. Ramos for rent. Is
9 that accurate?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And you know that Mr. Ramos has several properties in
12 California, correct?

13 A. Um, I'm aware that he has bought and sold several
14 properties. I don't know if he actually is the owner of any
15 properties at this moment.

16 Q. Okay. Are you also aware that he was renting properties
17 and subleasing them to other individuals?

18 A. Based on the checks, that's what I -- that's the
19 conclusion I came to.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. All right. And so some of those individuals that he
23 rented property to were apparently relatives of these
24 individuals in Dallas that you discussed, right?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Or some of them were. For instance, Joseph Lopez,
2 do you know if he rented an apartment from Mr. Ramos?

3 A. So if you're talking about an alias for Joseph Borrromeo
4 Lora, Jody, yes, he is an indicted member of this conspiracy
5 and I believe rented the property out there in California
6 from Mr. Ramos.

7 Q. And what about Leonor Lopez and Rafael Gallegos, Sr.,
8 are you aware that they rented a house from Mr. Ramos in
9 California?

10 A. I -- I do believe I recall that, yes.

11 Q. Okay. And are you also aware that a house was rented to
12 Rafael Gallegos, Jr.?

13 A. Yes. All those people you mentioned are members of this
14 conspiracy. According to source information, those
15 properties were actually owned by the Gallegoses and only
16 managed by Mr. Ramos.

17 Q. Have you -- as part of your investigation, have you
18 checked the title on those properties to see if, in fact,
19 Gallegos owned those properties?

20 A. Some of the properties I did, but you have to understand
21 the scheme that's involved here, that they would provide the
22 money to Mr. Ramos and Mr. Ramos would buy it and his name
23 would be on the title. That's according to our source
24 information.

25 Q. Okay. So did you find any properties in the names of

1 Gallegos or any of the other individuals that you testified
2 about besides Mr. Ramos?

3 A. I did not see the names on any of the titles.

4 Q. The amount of money that was sent from Dallas bank
5 accounts to the Bank of America accounts, they were sent to
6 two different accounts. One was the rental property
7 account, among others, and also Julio Ramos's personal
8 account, is that right?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Do you recall that the informant said that those were
11 payments for rent and to purchase vehicles in California?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. It was not for rent.

15 Q. Excuse me?

16 A. It was not for rent.

17 Q. Do you recall that in the December 7, 2019 DEA report
18 that's what your informant said?

19 A. I don't recall that.

20 Q. Okay. Would you like to see the report?

21 A. Sure.

22 MR. DAVIS: Judge, this is where I hit a roadblock
23 because I'm not really sure how to approach, with the virus.

24 THE COURT: You can approach. Just put your mask
25 back on.

1 MR. DAVIS: Just put my mask on?

2 THE COURT: Yes.

3 BY MR. DAVIS:

4 Q. Okay. Let me show you a report that's dated December 7,
5 2019. It's a DEA-6. Right there, this line right here
6 where it says Gallegos used Ramos to pay rent and purchase
7 vehicles in California.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. Okay. So would you agree with me that the report says
10 the CD, cooperating defendant, said Ramos would withdraw the
11 drug proceeds in California for Gallegos. Gallegos used
12 Ramos to pay rent and purchase vehicles for him in
13 California?

14 A. So that rent is basically to pay for the homes out there
15 in California that he owned.

16 Q. Is that what -- is that what the informant -- is that
17 what the report says? Does it say for mortgage payments or
18 does it say it's for rent?

19 A. Rent payments.

20 Q. Okay. Now, you would agree with me that when you look
21 at the monthly amounts that are sent from Dallas to
22 California, that those amounts vary month to month, is that
23 right?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And they could be anywhere from maybe over a thousand

1 dollars sometimes up to \$10,000, is that right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. All right. Now, according to the DEA report on
4 January 22nd, it said between May '18 and June 2019, there
5 were -- so we're talking about a little over a year -- into
6 the Ramos accounts there were 105 deposits, totaling
7 \$220,000, is that correct?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. All right. So from January -- May of '18 to a little
10 over '19, we're talking a little over \$220,000 in deposits
11 into the account, right?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Now, only part of those deposits actually came from
14 Dallas, right?

15 A. I'm not understanding what you're saying.

16 Q. Have you added up the money that came from Texas of that
17 \$220,000 over that relevant time period?

18 A. I don't recall. I just recall looking at the bank
19 account. I think the majority of it did come from the --
20 from the State of Texas.

21 Q. Well, there is a portion of your report that actually
22 lists out the payments from Dallas to that account. Do you
23 recall that, those accounts?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. All right. By my math, it's somewhere around \$120,000.

1 Of course, math is not my expertise. But does that sound
2 about right, \$120,000 from Dallas to those accounts?

3 A. I can't -- I can't recall.

4 Q. Okay. You -- are you aware that he also was an
5 assistant to a real estate broker, Mr. Ramos, in California?

6 A. I'm -- I'm not aware of that, no.

7 Q. Did you seize some checks from someone named Michael
8 Habad to Mr. Ramos?

9 A. Yes, I did.

10 Q. All right. Are you familiar with Michael Habad?

11 A. No, I'm not.

12 Q. Have you bothered looking at Mr. Ramos's 1099s to see if
13 he declared income as an employee of a real estate or
14 mortgage company?

15 A. I -- I have not.

16 Q. Were there any -- did you look at -- okay. Let me go to
17 the cars for a second here. You mentioned that there was a
18 Mercedes parked in the Carrollton driveway, is that right?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. All right. You know that, based on all the information
21 that you have, there is zero evidence that Mr. Ramos ever
22 went to Carrollton, Dallas or Texas, correct?

23 A. I don't know that.

24 Q. You don't have any evidence of that, do you?

25 A. What do you mean?

1 Q. You don't have any informants or any other evidence that
2 Mr. Ramos went to Dallas or Texas?

3 A. I -- I don't know if he's ever been here before. I
4 don't know that. He could have been here.

5 Q. You don't have any evidence of that so far in your
6 investigation, correct? You haven't developed that?

7 A. I have not, no.

8 Q. All right. Now, we saw a photograph of a Mercedes-Benz
9 that was in a driveway, right?

10 A. Right.

11 Q. You learned from your informant that Valencia was the
12 owner of the Mercedes-Benz, right?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. So when you put that photo up and you said it was
15 registered to Mr. Ramos, you're not suggesting to the Court
16 that you have evidence that Mr. Ramos was actually there
17 that day, correct?

18 A. Not that day. I don't know if he was ever there at the
19 house. I mean, I don't know.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. But the car was there.

22 Q. Are you aware that he had sold that car because of some
23 mechanical issues to Mr. Valencia?

24 A. I'm not aware of that.

25 Q. You're not aware of that?

1 A. I don't recall. I know that Mr. Valencia drove and
2 operated the car.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. But you have a car with Mr. Ramos' license plate on it.

5 Q. You actually seized that car as part of your
6 investigation, right?

7 A. Yes, we did.

8 Q. All right. Let's talk about the evidence in the case
9 outside of the informants. Do you have any visual
10 surveillance of Mr. Ramos?

11 A. Limited.

12 Q. Okay. What -- when you say limited, what kind of
13 surveillance are you referring to?

14 A. Just DEA out there doing checks for us on the Ramos
15 family at the Early Crimson house, I believe.

16 Q. Okay. And what did that show? That he resided there?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. All right. Do you have any surveillance of him going to
19 these so-called stash houses when there were drugs there?

20 A. Which stash houses?

21 Q. The ones that you said were in California.

22 A. There's several stash houses. I mean, Dallas?

23 Q. Any of them, any of them.

24 A. Well, based on source information that he did visit the
25 one that had the -- the one that Leonor Lopez owned, that he

1 would go by that stash house. That was a stash house.

2 Q. Right. I'm talking about visual surveillance. Do you
3 have any?

4 A. No.

5 Q. How about telephone intercepts of Mr. Ramos?

6 A. We do have some WhatsApp, and I haven't gone through
7 them yet, audio messages with Rafael Gallegos.

8 Q. Okay. And those were regarding rent payments?

9 A. I don't recall. I didn't listen to them.

10 Q. Okay. And that's fair because I think the discovery is
11 still being produced.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Is that right? Okay. What about any kind of undercover
14 recordings with informants or anything else?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Did you guys obtain his digital devices when he was
17 arrested?

18 A. We do have them.

19 Q. Okay. Have those been dumped yet and evaluated?

20 A. No, they -- he refused consent to enter his phone.

21 Q. Well, you can get a search warrant. You had a search
22 warrant to get those, didn't you?

23 A. Yeah, but it's an Apple iPhone. It's pretty difficult
24 to dump those.

25 Q. Okay. So you're saying that you cannot dump an Apple

1 iPhone without --

2 A. I have one that's been sitting at the FBI for two years
3 now.

4 Q. Okay. So your testimony is the resources of the FBI and
5 the Federal Government, you can't dump an iPhone without a
6 password?

7 A. Not right now, yeah.

8 Q. Okay. And then you obtained a cell phone from Juan
9 Felipe Valencia, right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You guys analyzed that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And there are no conversations between Valencia and Mr.
14 Ramos, correct?

15 A. There are conversations. There were outgoing in the
16 call logs there were conversations. I think he was saved as
17 Don Julio in Mr. Valencia's phone.

18 Q. Okay. So you're saying that there are conversations
19 between Mr. Valencia and Mr. Ramos?

20 A. I believe so. The cell phone that we had had his number
21 in it, Mr. Valencia's.

22 Q. Okay. Do you know whether or not they actually spoke or
23 are you just going by that phone number being in --

24 A. No, there was call logs. They -- it looks like they
25 spoke to one another in the call logs.

1 Q. Okay. You don't know what they discussed at all,
2 correct?

3 A. No.

4 Q. All right. And the text messages, were there any text
5 messages or anything like that to Mr. Valencia?

6 A. I don't recall.

7 Q. All right. Let me ask you some questions about the
8 Government's reply in this case for detention. There's an
9 assertion that Mr. Ramos, for some time, has been entrusted
10 by the Sinaloa Drug Cartel with safeguarding and
11 transferring large amounts of U.S. currency from the U.S. to
12 Mexico.

13 What evidence is there that he transported money from
14 the United States to Mexico?

15 A. Just sources indicating that, that money was sent up to
16 funnel accounts and wires, that they were responsible for
17 getting that money from California to Gallegos in Mexico.

18 Q. Okay. So you're saying that you have some informants or
19 sources that have told you that he, Mr. Ramos, has been
20 responsible for sending money to Mexico?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. All right. There's an assertion that DEA began
23 intercepting a series of related telephone lines in the U.S.
24 to Mexico. During the course of the interception, the DEA
25 intercepted a conversation in which Defendants spoke about

1 their drug trafficking activities.

2 There's nothing specifying that Ramos was part of these
3 conversations.

4 A. You know, at this time I don't know that. A lot of
5 times they speak in coded language, so I don't know if Ramos
6 was in there, a lot of just very short brief conversations.
7 But I didn't hear Julio Ramos on there, but I don't know
8 that.

9 Q. Okay. But to your knowledge, you haven't heard him on
10 any of those calls?

11 A. At this moment, no.

12 Q. All right. Now, in August '19 a reliable and credible
13 DEA source said he deposited over \$500,000 in multiple Bank
14 of America accounts owned by Ramos. And then it says -- and
15 this was -- so apparently, this was the CS who said he sent
16 approximately \$500,000 to Ramos.

17 A. Approximately.

18 Q. Do you recall that?

19 A. I do.

20 Q. And he also said he sent this from Dallas, right?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. But -- and this was presumably -- when you say a CS, is
23 this someone who is potentially facing criminal charges?

24 A. True.

25 Q. And what was he getting out of working for you guys?

1 A. No promises were made.

2 Q. What's that?

3 A. No promises were made to him.

4 Q. Okay. So he was just doing -- what about an expectation
5 of a benefit, is that why he was cooperating?

6 A. No promises were made. There's no expectations,
7 nothing.

8 Q. Could he have been charged?

9 A. Say that again.

10 Q. Could he have been charged criminally?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was he charged criminally up to this point?

13 A. At this point, no.

14 Q. All right. Now, you obtained the bank records. How is
15 it that he said he sent \$500,000, when the bank records show
16 around, give or take, \$120,000 being sent from Dallas?

17 A. He said over a course of a period of time. It wasn't
18 all at one time.

19 Q. I understand. And you've got --

20 A. We're talking probably about 2017 to 2019.

21 Q. Okay. Have you gotten those records from 2017?

22 A. I did not get those records from 2017, no.

23 Q. Okay. Based on the records we have now, what they show
24 is a fraction of \$500,000 was sent from Dallas?

25 A. But there's other methods of sending money. They wired

1 money also. As I testified to earlier, they wired money
2 through MoneyGram and Western Union. They wired money.
3 They sent money through bank funnel accounts. There were
4 different methods and means of getting money to the
5 Gallegoses.

6 Q. I understand that. But when you look at the money that
7 is sent from Dallas, whether it's wired or it's sent from a
8 money order or you look at the deposits on your spreadsheets
9 from Dallas, they total about \$120,000, don't they?

10 A. The wires of the money?

11 Q. Yeah. Everything coming from Dallas totals about
12 \$120,000.

13 A. Are you talking about -- they wired money and it was in
14 the hundreds of thousands of dollars too, wiring it. I'm
15 not talking the funnel account. The funnel account is what
16 you're talking about.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. There's other ways to get money to California, through
19 Western Union, for example.

20 Q. But what he said was that he -- the words he used was he
21 sent money, and he said he sent it from Dallas and he
22 said -- and then there's a description of the process of
23 buying these PLS cashier's checks. Because you actually
24 talked to two informants. One said that he sent 500,000.
25 Then there's another one who says he sent 650,000. Do you

1 recall that?

2 A. I do.

3 Q. All right. The one that -- for instance, the one who
4 said 650,000, he said he went as Valencia and Rodriguez,
5 used PLS check cashiers to convert proceeds to 150 cashier's
6 checks in approximately \$2500 amounts and then deposited
7 them in June '18 to June '19 via Bank of America funnel
8 account.

9 That's what he said. Do you recall that?

10 A. I do.

11 Q. Okay. Do you have any evidence thus far in the records
12 that you have obtained that support it's that amount of
13 money, \$650,000 or \$500,000?

14 A. Talking about the accounts or talking about a total of
15 Western Union, MoneyGram?

16 Q. The total amount.

17 A. It's up there, yes. I don't know the exact amount, but
18 it's high.

19 Q. Do you have records of that?

20 A. Um, so I showed an Excel spreadsheet earlier with Lalo
21 that was sending money and it had a red rectangle about the
22 increments of a thousand dollars, \$900, \$850.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. Yeah. So that money was sent to California at times and
25 also to Mexico.

1 Q. Okay. But what these guys are saying is we sent this to
2 Ramos. This isn't we sent it to Mexico or other people.
3 This is what we sent to Ramos. One says \$500,000 and one
4 says \$650,000.

5 A. Yeah. So, I mean, we don't have every check stub. It
6 was an approximate amount. I used approximate in there,
7 didn't I?

8 Q. Well, I mean --

9 A. I mean --

10 Q. Here's what I'm trying to get at. According to one DEA
11 report it says deposits from May '18 to June '19 were
12 \$220,000. When you look at which of those deposits came
13 from Dallas, by my math, and it could be off, but it looks
14 like it's about \$120,000, when you look at the transfers
15 from Dallas to California. And that's based on your DEA
16 report, 220 deposit, 120 or so from Dallas.

17 And then you've got two informants saying, hey, I know
18 that 500,000 was sent. You've got another informant saying
19 I know 650,000 was sent.

20 The numbers don't really add up, so I'm trying to
21 figure out, are they lying?

22 A. Well, the way we corroborated them, they brought in the
23 PLS, as you saw on the slide, the PLS cashier's checks.

24 Q. Right.

25 A. And they showed us copies of those, and the bank

1 receipts and showed us copies of those. The drug ledgers,
2 we looked at the drug ledgers.

3 So, you know, it's an approximate amount. They didn't
4 keep an ongoing running tab of what they were sending. They
5 just gave us an approximate amount of what they sent and
6 that's what I reported.

7 Q. But that's not even close, is it, \$120,000, 500,000 and
8 650,000?

9 A. When you say \$120,000, where are you getting that from?

10 Q. The money -- it's from your DEA report where you list
11 the amount of money that was deposited in --

12 A. But that's for one account, right?

13 Q. It's for the Ramos accounts. I don't know.

14 A. All the accounts?

15 Q. There are only two accounts that he has.

16 A. There's a third account in there too. I believe it's
17 owned by Carla, I believe.

18 Q. That's Carla and Jonathan Ramos.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. Yeah. But they're referring to the two accounts that
21 you showed with the bank numbers. That's Julio Ramos and
22 Jonathan Ramos' account and Julio Ramos Rental Properties.
23 And that -- the implication when you read the report, you
24 say I'm sending this to these Ramos accounts.

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. So presumably it's those two, but I'm trying to figure
2 out, have you seen any evidence that they sent 500, \$650,000
3 to those accounts, to support what they're saying?

4 A. Um, I'm -- we've seen the funneling actions inside that
5 bank account. I don't have the amounts in front of me right
6 now.

7 Q. Okay. Fair enough.

8 Well, let me -- I'll just -- this is from the
9 Government's reply. Agents corroborated information through
10 subpoenas to Bank of America showing that over 397 days,
11 from May 18, 2018 to June 18, 2019, there were 105 cash
12 deposits totaling \$220,000.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. And most of those -- by the way, that's what the
15 Government's reply says, but 60 percent of that, those 105
16 deposits, were checks, weren't they?

17 A. I mean, does it say that?

18 Q. It says it in your DEA-6 dated January 22nd, 2020.

19 A. What kind of checks? Personal checks? Cashier's
20 checks?

21 Q. It's your report. I don't know. It says checks.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. I don't know. Do you consider cashier's checks separate
24 from cash?

25 A. Um, it's a cash payment. Cashier's checks are cash.

1 Q. Okay. Then that may be why in the Government's reply it
2 says \$220,000 in cash. That's what I was curious about.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. All right. Do you have any evidence of Mr. Ramos going
5 to Durango or having communications with anyone in Durango?

6 A. Communications with Durango? Yes, through Rafael
7 Gallegos, Jr.

8 Q. Do you have any evidence that Mr. Ramos contacted anyone
9 down in Durango or had contact with people in Durango?

10 A. Mr. Gallegos.

11 Q. Okay. What's the evidence that he had contact with Mr.
12 Gallegos in Durango?

13 A. Um, through source information, that he maintained
14 contact with them for the rental properties out in
15 California, even after the June 18th date.

16 Q. And is this from confidential informants or Defendants?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. All right. And you're not here to represent everything
19 these guys told you is true or you believe it beyond a
20 reasonable doubt, are you?

21 A. I believe that they're reliable and credible, yes.

22 Q. In light of the disparity between the amount of money
23 they said they sent?

24 A. But that was an approximate amount in there. You know,
25 they didn't have a running ledger what they were sending to

1 him.

2 Q. Well, there were ledgers that you recovered, right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. By the way, let me ask you about that. One says that he
5 sent 500,000. Another informant said 650. Doesn't that --
6 does that mean that they're saying together they sent
7 \$1.1 million to California?

8 A. Um, I don't know. I mean, they said approximate.

9 Q. Okay. Well, let's just say approximate means kind of
10 close, right?

11 A. Approximately. You could be off.

12 Q. Okay. By --

13 A. It's not a definite amount.

14 Q. Be off by like 90 percent, 80 percent? Is that still
15 approximate to you?

16 A. Um, I mean, it's an approximate amount.

17 Q. All right. Let's go to the observation that Mr. Ramos
18 was some sort of high level member of the Sinaloa DTO.
19 Apparently that's something that was said.

20 A. Who said that?

21 Q. Well, that's in the Government's reply, Defendant is a
22 high level --

23 A. He's a trusted member to be at that level, yes, to
24 handle that type of money, yes.

25 Q. Okay. So do you agree with that, that he's a high level

1 member?

2 A. Yeah, to be trusted like that, yes.

3 Q. Okay. So how much money do you think was involved,
4 just -- do you have any idea how much money was involved in
5 this drug operation in terms of the number of millions of
6 dollars?

7 A. What do you mean? I don't understand that.

8 Q. Well, we saw a ledger --

9 A. During what time span?

10 Q. Well, let's look at the ledger that you saw. The ledger
11 had about \$5 million of payments that were owed, right?

12 A. Right.

13 Q. The informant told you that was, quote, a snapshot,
14 okay?

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. During the course of Mr. Ramos's alleged money
17 laundering in this case, how much money do you think the DTO
18 was moving in drugs? Just an estimate. Do you think it's
19 under a hundred million dollars or more?

20 A. What time span are we talking about?

21 Q. Okay. Let's say 2018, 2019.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. Right. Those are the times of these deposits. How much
24 do you think, just estimate, the cartel in this Dallas area
25 was responsible for?

1 A. I would say approximately 10 to 12 million.

2 Q. Ten to what?

3 A. Ten to 12 million.

4 Q. Ten to 12 million. All right. So a 10 to

5 12 million-dollar drug operation. Mr. Ramos is supposed to
6 be some high level, trusted member of the Sinaloa Cartel.

7 You have an informant that says that Gallegos is paying him
8 for rent. You know that he's got several properties out
9 there that he's renting. And according to the records,
10 maybe \$120,000 was put through his account from Dallas, or
11 \$200,000. I mean, even if that's true, that's -- that's
12 pretty minor, isn't it?

13 A. Well, Mr. Ramos wasn't the main money launderer.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. As you saw, the trailer had over a million dollars in it
16 that was going directly to Mexico.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. So bulk cash smuggling was a big part of it.

19 Q. Okay. That's what I was trying to figure out. I didn't
20 know if the allegation was that he was the main money
21 launderer or not.

22 Okay. Did the vast majority of the money go down to
23 Mexico or some other place, as opposed to being put in bank
24 accounts?

25 A. So a large portion of it did go to Mexico, but then

1 another part of it went to Mr. Ramos, the Ramoses out in
2 California, for those properties out there, those investment
3 properties for the Gallegoses.

4 Q. Okay. And do you have any evidence, aside from an
5 informant, that Mr. Ramos gave any -- any money to Mr.
6 Gallegos for those properties or there were any arrangements
7 or anything like that, that they were involved together?

8 A. Are you saying -- are you saying that physically handing
9 money, do we have evidence of them exchanging money?

10 Q. Or agreements or texts or, hey, I'm buying this house
11 for you, give me the money, or emails?

12 A. In this case, nothing was put in Mr. Gallegos's name, as
13 you can see.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. Like the vehicle, the Cadillac Escalade that was bought
16 in Las Vegas, Nevada was not put in his name. It's always
17 put in somebody else's name, including properties, and
18 that's where the Ramoses come in. They're in their names.
19 The vehicles are in their names. Also people out here in
20 Dallas, it's in -- Gallegos never had any vehicles in his
21 name, or properties in his name.

22 Q. Do you know if Gallegos had a driver's license?

23 A. He did, or I believe it was maybe an ID card.

24 Q. Right. So are you familiar that sometimes if someone
25 doesn't have a driver's license, they get someone else to

1 buy a car for them?

2 A. I'm not aware of that, no.

3 Q. Okay. But my question is, do you have any evidence that
4 Mr. Gallegos and Mr. Ramos themselves, any evidence other
5 than what an informant is saying that they had some kind of
6 agreement where Mr. Ramos was buying properties for Mr.
7 Gallegos?

8 A. I don't have anything else.

9 MR. DAVIS: All right. No further questions, Your
10 Honor.

11 THE COURT: Thank you. Cross examination?

12 MR. SILVERMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 Sorry. This microphone doesn't stay.

14 C R O S S E X A M I N A T I O N

15 BY MR. SILVERMAN:

16 Q. Good morning, Special Agent. How are you?

17 A. Good. Thank you.

18 Q. In the course of investigating this case, you had
19 received background information on my client, Jonathan
20 Ramos, is that correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you and I can agree that Jonathan -- that Jonathan
23 Ramos doesn't fit the profile of a person involved in the
24 Sinaloa Drug Cartel. Is that fair to say?

25 A. No.

1 Q. It's not fair to say that?

2 A. They use anybody. I mean, it doesn't -- I mean, it
3 depends on what role you're talking about.

4 Q. Let's talk a little bit about Jonathan Ramos. Jonathan
5 Ramos was born in the United States. He's a U.S. citizen,
6 right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you're aware that he graduated from -- in 2007 he
9 graduated from Bravo High School in East Los Angeles, right?

10 A. I don't know that.

11 Q. Were you aware that he had graduated from California
12 State University in San Bernadino, California and he
13 received a degree in health science? Were you aware of
14 that?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Were you aware that he has absolutely no criminal
17 history?

18 A. I'm aware of that.

19 Q. Were you aware that he's married and that he has three
20 children?

21 A. Married, yes. Children, unknown.

22 Q. Okay. And as part of your investigation, you also
23 looked into whether Jonathan had -- had a lot of
24 international travel, right?

25 A. True.

1 Q. And there's absolutely no international travel that you
2 uncovered in the course of your investigation?

3 A. I did not see that.

4 Q. When he was 12 years old he had traveled to Peru once.
5 Were you aware of that?

6 A. I am aware of that.

7 Q. And were you aware that when he was 10 or 11 years old
8 that he had traveled to Mexico one time?

9 A. I believe that's true.

10 Q. And other than those -- other than those incidents of
11 travel, there's no other international travel?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. And that's one of the things that you considered when
14 you had told the Court a little bit earlier about whether or
15 not you felt like he was a flight risk, right?

16 A. As far as --

17 Q. The things that you and I just discussed, did you take
18 those into consideration before you told the Judge that
19 Jonathan Ramos was a flight risk, right?

20 A. I told the Judge that I thought he was a flight risk due
21 to his connection to Mr. Gallegos in Mexico and his ranch,
22 that a lot of people were going down there to kind of hide
23 out.

24 Q. And you're aware that Jonathan Ramos has filed tax
25 returns each and every single year, right?

1 A. I'm not aware of that.

2 Q. Are you aware of what his job currently is right now?

3 A. Um, no.

4 Q. Okay. Were you aware that Jonathan Ramos, from
5 January 2020 to May 2020, has been employed at the San
6 Bernadino Community College District? Were you aware of
7 that?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Were you aware that his employer has, if the Court
10 releases him on pretrial release, has told him that he can
11 contact him and he's going to do everything he can to
12 provide him his employment back? Were you aware of that?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Were you aware that prior to Jonathan Ramos working at
15 the San Bernadino Community College that he was an employee
16 at Staples Office Supply from 2018 to 2019? Did you know
17 that?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Were you aware that prior to Jonathan working at Staples
20 Office Supply that he had worked at the Best Buy Electronics
21 store? Were you aware of that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Were you aware that when Jonathan Ramos had attended
24 California State University at San Bernadino, he was a part
25 time tutor for other students? Were you aware of that?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay. And these are all things that you would want to
3 consider when you're telling the Court that he's a flight
4 risk, right?

5 A. Well, there's that one thing that I testified to earlier
6 about his connection to Mr. Gallegos. These charges are
7 pretty -- pretty serious.

8 Q. And I understand that, sir. That wasn't my question.
9 I'm talking to you -- right now I'm just talking to you
10 about his background, his employment history and his
11 educational background. Do you understand that, Agent?

12 A. Yes, I do.

13 Q. Okay. And so with respect to those things that you and
14 I just discussed, you would agree that those things would
15 indicate that he's a stable person that has connections to
16 the community, right?

17 A. Not if you're looking at some serious charges though.

18 Q. I'm not talking about the charges. I'm talking about
19 his background, his lack of criminal history, his employment
20 history, his family. Those things indicate he's a stable
21 person, right?

22 A. Yeah, but when --

23 Q. Thank you.

24 A. When you have those charges --

25 Q. I --

1 A. -- you become unstable and --

2 Q. Special Agent --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. If there's a follow-up question that I need to ask you,
5 I'll ask you the follow-up question, okay?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. I appreciate --

8 A. But I'm not going to answer a question if I don't agree
9 with you.

10 Q. I want to talk to you a little bit about the
11 circumstances around Jonathan's arrest, when he was
12 arrested. Do you know when that took place?

13 A. June 18th, 2020.

14 Q. And where was -- where was Jonathan arrested on
15 June 18th?

16 A. I believe at a residence. I don't recall the numerics
17 of the residence, but it's Early Crimson Court, I believe,
18 in Corona, California.

19 Q. And when he was arrested, was -- did he attempt to flee?

20 A. No, no.

21 Q. Was he completely cooperative?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Were there any firearms that were recovered in his
24 residence?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Were there any drugs that were recovered in his
2 residence?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Was there anything that indicated, based on your
5 investigation in this case, that at the time of his arrest
6 that he would attempt to flee or evade officers executing
7 this arrest warrant?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. And you're aware of what Jonathan is accused of
10 in this case, right?

11 A. I believe so, but I -- I mean, you know, there's a lot
12 of Defendants in the case. Specifically, I know money
13 laundering, but there might be some other counts in there
14 too.

15 Q. Okay. And so just speaking broadly, with respect to
16 possession of drugs or distributing drugs, do you have any
17 evidence that Jonathan participated in the distribution of
18 drugs? Not the money, but drugs?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Do you have any evidence that Jonathan manufactured any
21 drugs?

22 A. No.

23 Q. The connection that Jonathan has to this case comes down
24 to the bank accounts. Is that fair?

25 A. The drug proceeds that were funneled through the

1 accounts.

2 Q. Bank accounts. Okay. And you had shown the Court two
3 different checks from two different Bank of America
4 accounts, right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And there was one check that we had seen that was a blue
7 check, and then there was another one in there. The two
8 ending account numbers were Bank of America 1075 and Bank of
9 America 6691, is that correct?

10 A. No, I believe it's 3552 and 6991 that are PLS cashier's
11 checks.

12 Q. And one of those accounts was in Jonathan's individual
13 name and the other one was in his name and his father's
14 name, is that correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And with respect to the deposits that were made into
17 these accounts, in the course of your investigation, did you
18 recover any surveillance video from the banks showing who
19 was making deposits into those accounts?

20 A. No. I tried, but --

21 Q. It's a yes or no question.

22 A. I tried. I tried.

23 Q. It's a yes or no question.

24 A. No, I didn't.

25 Q. Okay. Do you have -- with respect -- you had shown the

1 Court copies of different -- was it cashier's checks or
2 money orders that were deposited into these accounts?

3 A. Say that again.

4 Q. Cashier's checks or money orders or both that were
5 deposited into these accounts?

6 A. Um, there was cash, like cash cash, right? And --

7 Q. You --

8 A. I'm answering your question.

9 Q. Yes, sir, let me -- let's talk about that for a second.
10 Cash cash?

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. Do you have any evidence for the Court that Jonathan
13 Ramos had deposited any of that cash into the account?

14 A. Jonathan Ramos?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. So what you would see is like one account that he would
17 take the money out and --

18 Q. It's a yes or no question.

19 A. Well, I -- that's not a yes or no question.

20 Q. Do you have any evidence that Jonathan --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- deposited --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What evidence is that, sir?

25 A. So what I was saying was he would take it out of one

1 account and move it to another account, so withdrawing -- it
2 may be an electronic transfer of the funds, but you would
3 see it going from one account, right, \$2,500, into 3552 and
4 then you would see a transfer from 3552 to 6991 through Mr.
5 Ramos, Jonathan Ramos.

6 Q. Okay. And that's an electronic transfer that was made
7 on-line, right?

8 A. Well, there's electronic and then like a withdrawal and
9 then maybe a deposit into an ATM. You would see some of
10 that activity also.

11 Q. Do you -- can you tell the Court whether or not Jonathan
12 Ramos made that transfer or his father, Julio Ramos, had
13 made the transfer?

14 A. Well, I mean, there's two accounts, like you said.
15 There's a Julio Ramos and there's a Jonathan Ramos and Julio
16 Ramos. We didn't have the video, but one of those two made
17 the withdrawal from the account.

18 Q. So one of the two people sitting here at counsel table
19 had made the withdrawal, but you can't tell the Court which
20 one, right?

21 A. At this time, no.

22 Q. Okay. And I don't want you to speculate about anything.

23 Now, with respect -- you had shown the Court some money
24 orders that had been deposited into these accounts, right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And you would agree with me that a money order is like a
2 check in that the rear of the instrument has got to be
3 endorsed, right?

4 A. Yes, I agree.

5 Q. Okay. Did you show the Court the -- the back of those
6 money orders?

7 A. Um, I did not.

8 Q. Were you aware that Jonathan Ramos didn't endorse those
9 money orders?

10 A. I'm not aware of that.

11 Q. Okay. Well, you looked at the endorsement on the rear
12 of the money order, right?

13 A. Um, so those --

14 Q. It's a yes or no question. In the course of your
15 investigation, did you look at the rear of the money order
16 at the endorsement?

17 A. No.

18 Q. So you can't tell this Court who had endorsed the money
19 order?

20 A. If you let me explain, I can tell you.

21 Q. Can you tell the -- can you listen to my question first,
22 sir? Okay? Are you ready?

23 A. I'm ready.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Go ahead.

1 Q. Did you look at the rear of the money order at the
2 endorsement?

3 A. No.

4 Q. So can you tell the Court who endorsed the money order
5 that -- the money orders that had gone into the Bank of
6 America account?

7 A. I don't know.

8 Q. Okay. So once again, the big connection to this case
9 for Jonathan Ramos are these bank accounts, right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. Now, you had told the Court about these different
12 drug ledgers that were recovered in this case, is that
13 correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And were there people's nicknames in these drug ledgers?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What's -- what's Jonathan Ramos's nickname in the
18 Sinaloa Cartel?

19 A. Jonathan?

20 Q. Yeah, Jonathan, my client, what's Jonathan Ramos's
21 nickname in the Sinaloa Cartel?

22 A. Um, I -- I don't know.

23 Q. He doesn't have a nickname because he's not part of the
24 Sinaloa Cartel, right?

25 A. You don't have to have a nickname to be a part of the --

1 Q. All these other people that you described to the Court
2 have these nicknames, these other people that didn't
3 graduate from high school, didn't graduate from college and
4 didn't work at the community college, they all have these
5 street names, right?

6 A. Well, Alan didn't have a street name.

7 Q. Let's just be candid with each other. Jonathan --

8 A. You asked me if they had a nickname. Not everybody had
9 nicknames in this group. There's 75 of them.

10 Q. You and I can agree Jonathan Ramos has no name in the
11 gang, right?

12 A. I don't know. I don't know if he has a nickname. I
13 know it was Jonathan Ramos.

14 Q. Is Jonathan Ramos's name listed in any of these drug
15 ledgers?

16 A. At this time, no.

17 Q. And if you testify to something beyond this time, you
18 would be speculating.

19 A. Well, I'm going to say --

20 Q. So my question is --

21 A. His nickname is Deposito. I mean, when they made that
22 deposit, they put it on the drug ledger, it says Deposito.
23 It was \$3,250, I believe.

24 Q. Do you -- are you telling this Judge that his name is
25 Deposito, that Jonathan Ramos's name is Deposito? Is that

1 what you're telling this judge?

2 A. Well, that's what Lalo referred to him as. When he
3 deposited the money in his account, he put down Deposito.

4 Q. You're telling this Court --

5 A. Can I look at the slide and show you?

6 Q. -- that Lalo said that Jonathan Ramos --

7 A. I didn't say that Lalo said that. I didn't say that. I
8 said in the drug ledger Mr. Ramos's name was Deposito,
9 because the amount --

10 Q. Are you talking about Jonathan Ramos or are you talking
11 about Julio Ramos?

12 A. It was in Jonathan Ramos's account.

13 Q. Okay. My question -- well, they have -- his father's
14 name was on his account, right?

15 A. That's true.

16 Q. And his name was on his account, right?

17 A. That's true.

18 Q. Okay. So his father may have been using his account,
19 right?

20 A. That's possible.

21 Q. Okay. Do you have anything about Jonathan Ramos's
22 lifestyle that indicates to you that he's leading some fancy
23 lifestyle?

24 A. I don't have that information, no.

25 Q. Does he have any fancy cars?

1 A. I don't know.

2 Q. Does he live in a fancy house?

3 A. I -- I don't -- well, in California, I mean, it's pretty
4 pricy out there.

5 Q. Any -- any safety deposit boxes connected to him with a
6 bunch of cash in them?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Okay. Now, so other than Deposito, you -- just so the
9 record is clear, you and I can agree that Jonathan Ramos's
10 name is not on any of those drug ledgers, right?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Okay. Now, you had talked about -- at some time in the
13 testimony, I think, that the last name Ramos was just used,
14 without really distinguishing Jonathan from his father
15 Julio, and so I just wanted to be clear about my client with
16 respect to these straw purchases of houses. Can you explain
17 to the Court, what is a straw purchase of a house?

18 A. Like a -- a substitute person that comes in that really
19 doesn't have the money but they step in to take the
20 responsibility of purchasing the property for a person that
21 is the original financier.

22 Q. Okay. And what's the purpose of having a straw
23 transaction with a straw purchaser of real property?

24 A. To avoid law enforcement detection.

25 Q. Okay. How many straw purchases of real estate property

1 did Jonathan Ramos participate in?

2 A. I'm not aware of any.

3 Q. So the answer to the question, based on your
4 investigation, is zero, is that correct, Special Agent?

5 A. At this time.

6 Q. And -- well, the Court is making its decision based on
7 the evidence that we have at this time, right?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Okay. So no purchases of straw property that Jonathan
10 Ramos participated in, right?

11 A. At this time, no.

12 Q. You had talked to the Court about straw purchases of
13 vehicles, right, where you buy a vehicle for somebody else,
14 right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. How many straw purchases of vehicles did Jonathan Ramos
17 participate in?

18 A. Um, I'm not aware of any, no.

19 Q. Zero?

20 A. I'm not aware of any.

21 Q. All right. Now, you had talked to the Court about the
22 transportation of these drugs in these black trailers,
23 right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And with respect to the transportation of drugs in these

1 black trailers, how many of those trips did Jonathan Ramos
2 participate in?

3 A. None.

4 Q. Okay. You had told the Court on the Government's direct
5 examination that multiple cooperating individuals had IDed
6 Jonathan Ramos, is that correct?

7 A. Julio Ramos.

8 Q. Okay. So fair to say none of these cooperating sources
9 specifically identified my client, Jonathan Ramos, right?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Okay. Now, you had talked about people that are
12 involved in this Sinaloa Cartel organization encouraging
13 U.S. citizens to flee to Durango, Mexico. Do you remember
14 testifying to that?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And do you have any information that anybody had
17 encouraged my client, Jonathan Ramos, to flee to Mexico?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Do you have any information that my client, Jonathan
20 Ramos, had been encouraged by anybody to flee to Mexico?

21 A. I don't.

22 Q. You had told the Court that as part of this drug
23 conspiracy that there was money being sent back to Mexico,
24 is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. How many times did Jonathan Ramos send money back to
2 Mexico?

3 A. Part of that scheme out in California was collecting
4 part of the drug proceeds to send to Mexico, so --

5 Q. I'm talking about Jonathan Ramos. How many times do you
6 have specific information that Jonathan Ramos sent money
7 back to Mexico?

8 A. As far as like coming from a source, like a cooperating
9 source?

10 Q. Yes, sir, from a cooperating source, a co-defendant,
11 anybody, how many times?

12 A. Zero.

13 Q. Okay. So his name on both bank accounts is really your
14 strongest piece of evidence. Would that be fair to say,
15 sir?

16 A. His name on both bank accounts? No. I mean, I think
17 you see the structuring activity.

18 Q. Structuring? Okay. Let's talk about that for a minute.

19 A. Can I finish my answer?

20 Q. Yes, sir. Go right ahead. Sorry for interrupting you.

21 A. Thank you. The structuring activity, the money coming
22 into the funnel bank account, him moving it from one account
23 to another, him receiving the PLS cashier's checks from
24 unknown people in Dallas, Texas, and cashing those checks
25 into those bank accounts.

1 Q. Okay. So back to the last thing you had mentioned,
2 those PLS checks that were deposited into the bank accounts,
3 did you look at any of those endorsements on the back of
4 those checks?

5 A. So those were sent from Bank of America, so they didn't
6 have the back side of them Xerox copied or copied or
7 scanned, so no. No, I didn't see the back of them.

8 Q. Do you know if Jonathan Ramos participated in those
9 transactions at all?

10 A. Well, his name was on the check.

11 Q. His name was on the check and it was deposited in the
12 account, but his father also had his name on the account,
13 right?

14 A. That's true.

15 Q. So his father had the ability to access those accounts
16 and negotiate everything that was going on in those
17 accounts, right?

18 A. It's possible, yes.

19 Q. Is it fair to say that you're not able to distinguish,
20 based on the investigation and the records in this case,
21 whether his father was doing that or whether he was doing
22 that, right?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Okay. And just with respect to, once again, his
25 background, his background really wouldn't support or

1 wouldn't support the idea that he's part of the Sinaloa Drug
2 Cartel, would it?

3 A. If you go based off my training and experience, anybody
4 can participate in this deal, anybody.

5 Q. How many --

6 A. We've had teachers. We have had --

7 THE COURT: This is all repetitive. You started this
8 examination on this questioning. Let's move on.

9 MR. SILVERMAN: Yes, sir, I'm getting ready to tie it
10 up, Judge.

11 THE COURT: Well, I'm not talking about that. I'm
12 just saying you've already asked this question and he gave his
13 opinion on this.

14 BY MR. SILVERMAN:

15 Q. You and I had discussed structuring a couple of minutes
16 ago. Can you tell the Court, what is structuring?

17 A. Structuring is when you use a pattern of depositing
18 money into a bank account on maybe different days, under the
19 \$10,000 reporting requirement, to avoid law enforcement
20 detection. So you see it going into bank accounts and ATMs
21 maybe. You'll see it deposited at one bank branch and then
22 maybe another bank branch, so that's an example of
23 structuring.

24 Q. And are there any ATM videos in this case with Jonathan
25 Ramos depositing amounts under \$10,000 into the bank?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Are there deposit slips that Jonathan Ramos filled out
3 in amounts, over a period of days, in an attempt to avoid
4 the reporting requirement?

5 A. Um, could you repeat that question again?

6 Q. Yes, sir. Do you have any -- did you look at any
7 deposit slips that Jonathan Ramos filled out with amounts
8 less than \$10,000 to avoid the reporting requirement?

9 A. I didn't see any.

10 Q. Okay. So there's none?

11 A. Well, I mean, I have to -- I believe there's one that's
12 like 8,850 that was broken up into two separate PLS checks
13 that came in to him that he deposited.

14 Q. And just so we don't confuse the issue, talking about
15 these PLS checks, these are electronic deposits, right?

16 A. I believe so, yes.

17 Q. You don't have any evidence that Jonathan Ramos made
18 those deposits, do you?

19 A. No, I don't.

20 Q. Mr. Davis had talked to you a little bit about
21 surveillance in this case. Is there any surveillance in
22 this case with Jonathan Ramos committing any crime on the
23 surveillance?

24 A. Actual physical surveillance?

25 Q. Yes, physical surveillance.

1 A. No.

2 Q. Are there any recorded phone calls that implicate
3 Jonathan Ramos by name as part of this conspiracy?

4 A. No.

5 MR. SILVERMAN: Could I have just a second?

6 THE COURT: Yes.

7 MR. SILVERMAN: I have no further questions of this
8 witness, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Gonzalez, anything
10 additional?

11 MR. GONZALEZ: Just a few questions, Your Honor.

12 R E D I R E C T E X A M I N A T I O N

13 BY MR. GONZALEZ:

14 Q. Agent West, based on your training and experience and
15 investigating these types of cases, does everyone that's
16 involved in a conspiracy of this nature touch the drugs?

17 A. That's correct, not everybody touches the drugs.

18 Q. Does everybody involved transport the money?

19 A. No. Separate roles.

20 Q. Do individuals serve a specific role in the drug
21 trafficking organization?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And the role that these two Defendants had was what?

24 A. Laundering drug proceeds for the organization.

25 Q. And that's what your investigation showed and your

1 cooperators told you, correct?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Now, did you find real estate that was associated to
4 these Defendants?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And would it surprise you -- well, your confidential
7 informants indicated that they were sending payments --
8 defense counsel asked you if it was rent payments for
9 property, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Would it surprise you that when Mr. Julio Ramos said or
12 he reported to Pretrial Services that he simply received --
13 he earns \$5,000 a month and that's the only money he earned
14 is through his place of employment? Did you see larger
15 quantities being deposited into his bank account?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. More than \$5,000 a month?

18 A. I believe there was multiple payments. One was, I
19 believe -- I can't recall off the top of my head. 8,550 is
20 what I recall.

21 Q. And that's not including taking out the 2,500 in
22 expenses that he indicated to Pretrial Services. So,
23 really, it's only \$2,500. Did you see more than \$2,500 a
24 month being deposited into his bank account?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you see any rent payments?

2 A. I didn't see any rent payments.

3 Q. In fact, Mr. Julio Ramos doesn't report that he owns any
4 residences and that he's receiving rental income?

5 A. That's -- that's correct. I believe that there were
6 checks written as far as -- as I testified to earlier,
7 Mr. Hamad, there were some checks coming like that. But
8 other than -- coming from Dallas, Texas and the amounts
9 that -- they were always even amounts, like 2,500, 3,000,
10 250, amounts like that that were coming in, 1,000, coming
11 from Dallas to California to the Ramoses.

12 Q. But your information was that that was for them to
13 launder, not to pay for any rent on a property?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. In regards to Jonathan Ramos, similarly there, he has
16 been unemployed -- has been employed at Staples, has been
17 employed at Best Buy, has been employed at the University of
18 California or California State University at San Bernadino.
19 He doesn't really report an income.

20 Did you show any constant income that would be
21 indicative of employment?

22 A. I didn't see any.

23 Q. Then he reported that there was \$30,000 in that joint
24 bank account but that most of it belonged to his father.
25 And was that the bank account that was being used by both

1 Defendants?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And when you indicated that there was properties being
4 purchased in California, were those properties being
5 purchased for Gallegos?

6 A. Yes, he used the Ramoses to purchase those properties
7 out there for his -- for Jody to stay in, Joseph Borromeo
8 Lora, Leonor Lopez and Rafael Galindo Gallegos, Sr.

9 Q. And those properties were expensive properties, correct?

10 A. I think they're appraised over a million.

11 Q. Were those properties, based on your investigation,
12 purchased with drug proceeds?

13 A. According to the sources, yes.

14 MR. GONZALEZ: That's all I have, Your Honor.

15 MR. SILVERMAN: Can I briefly?

16 THE COURT: Yes, go ahead.

17 R E C R O S S E X A M I N A T I O N

18 BY MR. SILVERMAN:

19 Q. Just the two Bank of America accounts, 3930 and I
20 believe the other one was 3552?

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. 3930 was the account that Jonathan Ramos and his wife
23 used. Were you aware of that?

24 A. Is Carla the wife?

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. Yes, I saw that.

2 Q. And that the money that he got paid from the community
3 college, the family's money was in that bank account. Were
4 you aware of that?

5 A. I was not.

6 Q. Okay. Did you look at his tax returns for last year?

7 A. I did not.

8 MR. SILVERMAN: Okay. Nothing further, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Okay. You may step down.

10 What says the Government?

11 MR. GONZALEZ: No further witnesses, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Any evidence from the defense?

13 MR. SILVERMAN: Yes, Judge, the --

14 THE COURT: Well, let me first call on --

15 MR. DAVIS: Yes, Your Honor. Mr. Silverman has a
16 couple of witnesses that are his main witnesses, and I just
17 have a couple of questions. They're very brief.

18 THE COURT: Okay. That's fine.

19 MR. DAVIS: Relatives.

20 MR. SILVERMAN: Jonathan Ramos calls Elizabeth Marin.

21 THE COURT: While we wipe that down, if you want to
22 raise your right hand.

23 (Witness was sworn.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Just wait one second.

25 If you'll state your name and spell your last name for

1 the record.

2 THE WITNESS: Good morning, Your Honor. My name is
3 Elizabeth Marin.

4 THE COURT: And would you spell your last name?

5 THE WITNESS: M-A-R-I-N.

6 THE COURT: Thank you. Go ahead.

7 MR. SILVERMAN: May I proceed?

8 THE COURT: Yes.

9 ELIZABETH MARIN, DEFENDANTS' WITNESS, SWORN,

10 D I R E C T E X A M I N A T I O N

11 BY MR. SILVERMAN:

12 Q. Can you please introduce yourself to the Court?

13 A. Good morning. My name is Elizabeth Marin.

14 Q. And spell your last name, please.

15 A. M as in Mary, A as in apple, R as in Ray, I as in igloo,
16 N as in Nancy.

17 Q. And, Ms. Marin, where are you from?

18 A. Originally I was born in Lima, Peru.

19 Q. Are you a United States citizen?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. How long have you been a United States citizen?

22 A. Since I was eight years old.

23 Q. Do you have any prior criminal history?

24 A. No, sir.

25 Q. Do you know this person sitting on my right side of the

1 counsel table wearing glasses?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And who is that person?

4 A. He's my cousin.

5 Q. And which -- and prior to being arrested for this
6 offense, where did your cousin -- what's your cousin's name?

7 A. Jonathan Ramos.

8 Q. And where did Jonathan Ramos live?

9 A. Corona, California.

10 Q. And did he live in a home or an apartment?

11 A. Home.

12 Q. And who did he live with?

13 A. His dad, Julio Ramos, his mother, Sandra Ramos, his
14 sister, Susana Ramos, his wife and three kids, and also
15 Susana Ramos's family, husband and three kids, and their
16 grandpa.

17 Q. And how long has Jonathan Ramos been married?

18 A. I'm not sure, to be honest. I want to say maybe five
19 years, I want to say, or a little longer than that probably.

20 Q. And how many children does he have?

21 A. Three.

22 Q. And how old are the children?

23 A. Mateo, he's about maybe six, seven years old, I believe,
24 and the twins are almost three.

25 Q. Okay. And what kind of work do you do in California?

1 A. Right now I'm a business banker for Wells Fargo Bank.

2 Q. And how long have you done that job?

3 A. About almost five years.

4 Q. And do you have a college degree?

5 A. I'm going to college currently.

6 Q. And do you own a home, rent a home in California?

7 A. Rent an apartment in California.

8 Q. And who do you live with?

9 A. With my domestic partnership and my two kids.

10 Q. Who is that person?

11 A. Saul Rodriguez.

12 Q. And do you and Saul have any children together?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. And how many children do you have?

15 A. Two.

16 Q. In the event that the Court grants Jonathan pretrial
17 release, would you be willing to sign on a surety bond to
18 guarantee his court appearance here in Texas?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. And do you know Jonathan to be a person that travels
21 internationally?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Is -- what kind of person do you think Jonathan is?

24 A. Humble, family oriented, goal oriented. He's a home
25 body. He's always at home, other than going out to get food

1 for his family, work, school, that's it.

2 Q. Do you know, prior to being arrested, what Jonathan's
3 employment status was?

4 A. I was aware of Best Buy and the latest company,
5 community college.

6 Q. And do you know anything about the community college
7 wanting to take him back if the Court releases him on
8 pretrial release?

9 A. I was not aware.

10 MR. SILVERMAN: Okay. Nothing further, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Well, let me ask the other defense
12 counsel.

13 MR. DAVIS: If it's okay, Judge, just a couple of
14 questions.

15 THE COURT: Yes, go ahead, and then we'll go to Mr.
16 Gonzalez.

17 C R O S S E X A M I N A T I O N

18 BY MR. DAVIS:

19 Q. Good morning.

20 A. Good morning.

21 Q. We met yesterday, right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Mr. Silverman has covered, in large part, your
24 background and your relationship, but I just wanted to ask
25 you a couple of questions. How long have you known Julio

1 Ramos?

2 A. Since I came to this country, since I was eight.

3 Q. All right. And are you familiar with his immigration
4 status here in the United States?

5 A. Yes, I am.

6 Q. Okay. And what is that status?

7 A. That he's not legal.

8 Q. And because of that, has he traveled before outside the
9 United States?

10 A. Never.

11 Q. Okay. If the Court were to grant him pretrial release,
12 would you help ensure that he would follow those conditions?

13 A. Of course.

14 Q. Do you have concerns about him being a flight risk?

15 A. Not at all.

16 Q. What about a danger to the community?

17 A. Not at all.

18 MR. DAVIS: Okay. No further questions, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Gonzalez.

20 C R O S S E X A M I N A T I O N

21 BY MR. GONZALEZ:

22 Q. You would agree with me, ma'am, that someone who's here
23 in this country illegally is already violating the laws of
24 this country by being here?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And Mr. Julio Ramos didn't have a problem with that, did
2 he?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Ma'am, you talked about being possibly a third party
5 custodian for Jonathan Ramos, and you indicated that there
6 was children there at your house. What are their ages?

7 A. I'm sorry. My house or his house?

8 Q. At your house.

9 A. My house, ten years old and a five year old.

10 Q. And you've sat here and listened to the testimony of the
11 DEA agent, an experienced agent, and he talked about the
12 violence perpetrated by the cartel that they're linked to.

13 Do you have any concern for your children living there at
14 your house, having someone associated with that cartel
15 living there?

16 A. Of course.

17 Q. You do?

18 A. Of course.

19 Q. And you're still willing to put that concern of someone
20 associated with the Sinaloa Cartel living there at your
21 house?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Now, you talked about his employment, that he was
24 employed at the college or the university, sorry, and that
25 he was employed at Staples. You know about that employment,

1 correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And that -- and you know that after that he was
4 unemployed, or did you not know that?

5 A. I wasn't aware.

6 Q. Okay. So he was unemployed after Staples. Do you know
7 how much money he was making?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Do you know how much money they were bringing into their
10 household?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Do you know how much money he pays for his house?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you know how he hired his attorney?

15 A. No, not -- not necessarily, not in detail.

16 Q. Well, what do you know? How did he pay for his
17 attorney?

18 A. I know that I helped out at some point as a family
19 member.

20 Q. How much money?

21 A. I put in about a thousand dollars.

22 Q. And how much money did the Defendant put in?

23 A. I'm not sure. I'm not familiar with the whole amount.

24 Q. What was the total amount that needed to be paid?

25 A. I believe -- just for him?

1 Q. Just for him.

2 A. I believe about 60,000 maybe or -- I'm not sure. I'm
3 not so sure.

4 Q. What is it that you thought it was?

5 A. Well, I know for both total was probably about a hundred
6 thousand.

7 MR. DAVIS: Excuse me, Judge. I object to what fee
8 arrangements were as being privileged in a criminal case. I
9 don't think it's relevant.

10 MR. GONZALEZ: Your Honor, part of the issue here is
11 the wealth of --

12 THE COURT: Well, I'll overrule the objection. I
13 mean, whatever she knows, I don't see how that's privileged if
14 she's been told. Why is that protected?

15 MR. DAVIS: Because --

16 THE COURT: It would be different if your client was
17 testifying maybe, but --

18 MR. DAVIS: Right. Well, I understand the Rules of
19 Evidence don't apply, but it would have been a privileged
20 communication with my client. I don't know how exactly she
21 would know this stuff. I mean, it would be hearsay and things
22 like that.

23 MR. SILVERMAN: And I would argue the same objection
24 on behalf of Jonathan.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I'm going to overrule the

1 objection. Go ahead.

2 BY MR. GONZALEZ:

3 Q. So how much money needed to be collected by the family
4 to pay for these attorneys?

5 A. I'm not sure.

6 Q. You mentioned an amount just awhile ago. What did you
7 believe it to be?

8 A. I'm sorry?

9 Q. You mentioned an amount just awhile ago. What was that
10 amount?

11 A. I said an approximate of about a hundred thousand, but
12 it's not in concrete. I'm not sure exactly the exact
13 amount.

14 MR. SILVERMAN: And I object at this point to
15 speculation, Judge. She said she doesn't really know.

16 THE COURT: Well, overrule the objection. She can
17 answer, whatever she believes.

18 BY MR. GONZALEZ:

19 Q. You believed it was a hundred thousand dollars, and you
20 pitched in \$1,000, right?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. Do you know where the other \$99,000 came from?

23 A. Most likely, the rest of my family members.

24 Q. How much money came from their bank accounts?

25 A. I'm not sure.

1 Q. How many assets did they sell?

2 A. I'm not sure.

3 Q. Do you know whether they own real estate?

4 A. Whether what? I'm sorry.

5 Q. Whether they own real estate?

6 A. I know my uncle does.

7 Q. And how much did he pay for that?

8 A. I don't know.

9 Q. How many properties does he own?

10 A. I'm not sure.

11 Q. How many properties did he sell to hire the attorneys?

12 A. I'm not sure.

13 MR. GONZALEZ: That's all I have, Your Honor.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. SILVERMAN: Briefly?

16 THE COURT: Yes, go ahead.

17 R E D I R E C T E X A M I N A T I O N

18 BY MR. SILVERMAN:

19 Q. The Government had talked to you about a person that was
20 part of the Sinaloa Cartel being around your children. Do
21 you remember hearing that question?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. How long have you known Jonathan Ramos?

24 A. My whole life.

25 Q. Would you consider him to be a hard person or a softer

1 type of person?

2 A. A softer type of person.

3 Q. Is he the type of person that would run around with gang
4 members?

5 A. Not at all.

6 Q. Is he -- does he have any gang tattoos?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Was he a more studious person or somebody that just kind
9 of skipped school and didn't finish their studies?

10 A. No. He doesn't even go to the street alone or the
11 market alone.

12 Q. Is he a big person that hangs out with his buddies at a
13 club or anything like that?

14 A. I don't think he's ever been to a bar or a club.

15 Q. Okay. Family man, right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Not a gang member, right?

18 A. Not at all.

19 Q. And when you told me that you would be comfortable as a
20 third party custodian, was it based on what you know about
21 Jonathan Ramos?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. With respect to the fee that was paid for the lawyers,
24 do you know specifically what the fee was?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Okay. Do you know the amount that's owed still?

2 A. No.

3 MR. SILVERMAN: Okay. Nothing further.

4 THE COURT: You may step down.

5 Anything else?

6 MR. SILVERMAN: I have one more quick witness, Your
7 Honor.

8 THE COURT: Go ahead.

9 MR. SILVERMAN: The defense calls Saul Rodriguez.

10 THE COURT: Sir, if you'll raise your right hand and
11 be sworn in.

12 (Witness was sworn.)

13 THE COURT: Go ahead.

14 SAUL RODRIGUEZ, DEFENDANTS' WITNESS, SWORN,

15 D I R E C T E X A M I N A T I O N

16 BY MR. SILVERMAN:

17 Q. Can you please introduce yourself to the Court?

18 A. Yes. My name is Saul Rodriguez, S-A-U-L
19 R-O-D-R-I-G-U-E-Z.

20 Q. Mr. Rodriguez, where are you from?

21 A. Los Angeles, California.

22 Q. And did you attend high school there?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What high school did you graduate from?

25 A. John Marshall High School.

1 Q. And what did you do after you graduated from John
2 Marshall High School?

3 A. I enlisted in the Marine Corps.

4 Q. And we appreciate your service. How long were you in
5 the United States Marine Corps?

6 A. Eight years.

7 Q. Did you, sir, have any active combat duty?

8 A. Yes, in 2008 I went to Iraq.

9 Q. And how long did you serve in Iraq?

10 A. Seven months.

11 Q. And when did you come back -- when did you leave the
12 Marine Corps?

13 A. I got out in February 2012.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Silverman, if you would turn your mic
15 on.

16 MR. SILVERMAN: It's not coming on.

17 THE COURT: We just finished a two week trial where
18 they were being used all day by a whole bunch of lawyers.

19 MR. DAVIS: So in the hearing, if it runs out, you're
20 done?

21 THE COURT: No, no.

22 BY MR. SILVERMAN:

23 Q. And, Mr. Rodriguez, where we left off is when you came
24 back from active combat duty. What did you do when you came
25 back?

1 A. I had minor jobs here and there, working at different
2 places. In 2013 I decided to go back to school, and I've
3 been going to school since.

4 Q. And what do you do today, sir?

5 A. I work at a community college in Pasadena. I do
6 outreach coordination for Veteran Services.

7 Q. And are you currently in school right now?

8 A. Yes, I am. I'm at California State at A in the Master's
9 Program in counseling.

10 Q. Okay. Do you know this person sitting at counsel table
11 to my right wearing glasses?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And who is that person?

14 A. Jonathan Ramos.

15 Q. And how do you know Jonathan Ramos?

16 A. Through my partner.

17 Q. And are you -- prior to him being arrested, would you be
18 around him often?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And would you be willing to do everything you could to
21 make sure that he shows up to his court appearances in
22 Texas?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Would you be willing to sign as a third party custodian
25 on a bond if the Court determines it's appropriate to

1 release him on pretrial release?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is Jonathan Ramos the type of person that travels
4 internationally?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Is Jonathan Ramos -- have you ever seen him possess
7 firearms?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Have you ever seen him use drugs?

10 A. No.

11 Q. What kind of person can you tell the Court that Jonathan
12 Ramos is?

13 A. Very quiet, keeps to himself. I mean, he's usually
14 upstairs with his wife and kids. Whenever I go over, he'll
15 come down and we'll watch some Dodger games, talk about
16 baseball. That's it.

17 MR. SILVERMAN: Okay. Nothing further, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Anything?

19 C R O S S E X A M I N A T I O N

20 BY MR. DAVIS:

21 Q. I'll just ask you similar questions but shorter since
22 Mr. Silverman has covered quite a bit of the territory with
23 you. But do you know Julio Ramos?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And if the Judge was to grant him pretrial release,

1 would you help ensure that he follows conditions of that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And do you have concerns about him being a flight risk?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Or a danger to the community?

6 A. No.

7 Q. And you've heard the agent's testimony here today,
8 correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 MR. DAVIS: Okay. No further questions.

11 THE COURT: Mr. Gonzalez, any questions?

12 MR. GONZALEZ: No, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Okay. You may step down.

14 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

15 THE COURT: Does that conclude the evidence, Mr.
16 Silverman, that you would like to offer?

17 MR. DAVIS: What I would do, Judge, if we could just
18 introduce as Defense Exhibit 1 for Julio Ramos the Pretrial
19 Services Report. I think it provides a lot of background to
20 the Court.

21 THE COURT: Well, typically the Court doesn't admit
22 that as an exhibit. It's something the Court has as part of
23 its record.

24 MR. DAVIS: That's all from Mr. Ramos.

25 MR. SILVERMAN: On behalf of Jonathan Ramos, if the

1 Court would just take judicial notice of the Pretrial Services
2 Report.

3 THE COURT: Yes, I will certainly do that. I mean,
4 we consider it automatically anyways, although it was prepared
5 by California. I don't know that our probation officer here
6 has actually done a report. But that's fine.

7 MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

8 MR. SILVERMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

9 MR. DAVIS: Nothing further.

10 MR. SILVERMAN: Nothing further.

11 THE COURT: Okay. And since this is a presumption
12 case, the only question I have, Mr. Gonzalez, is as to Jonathan
13 Ramos. I know he's also charged in one of the counts that
14 would lead to a presumption, correct?

15 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Okay. But based on the testimony, I
17 don't know of any -- separating him from Julio, but it doesn't
18 sound like there's any evidence tying him to the drug
19 conspiracy. And I know you're not bound by that at this
20 detention hearing, but I'm just trying to figure out how I
21 evaluate that. Because if it's just the money laundering count
22 as to him, that's not a presumption case by that, correct?

23 MR. GONZALEZ: Well, I -- the presumption case is any
24 case that involves a potential sentence of more than ten years.

25 THE COURT: No, I always thought the presumption --

1 putting my Magistrate hat back on. It's been years since I did
2 a detention hearing, but I always thought the presumption only
3 comes into play if there's a ten year minimum that's in play
4 and certain offenses. I didn't think it -- the money
5 laundering count is usually up to 20 years.

6 MR. GONZALEZ: Correct.

7 THE COURT: So I wasn't sure if the presumption
8 applies if it's just the money laundering count. I know he's
9 been indicted for the others so the presumption is in play in
10 that sense, but I have to evaluate it, so I'm asking for help
11 here to see --

12 MR. GONZALEZ: Well, Your Honor, the testimony is
13 that there were money orders, bank deposits. His bank account
14 was being used. There's testimony that the confidential
15 informants or cooperating defendants have indicated that the
16 money that was being deposited into those specific bank
17 accounts, which are owned by either one of these two
18 Defendants, was the proceeds and that it was being sent back so
19 that it could then be sent to Mexico. But it was drug
20 proceeds.

21 So they're not only involved in the money laundering
22 aspect. The money is coming from the drug distribution.
23 Whether they distributed the drugs or manufactured the drugs
24 is not the issue. Whether -- it's are they involved in the
25 conspiracy, and do they have an agreement to launder the

1 money that's derived from the drugs, which is then sent to
2 them. They send it to Mexico. They use that money to
3 produce more drugs, and so on, so forth.

4 THE COURT: So let me ask, so your view is if -- and,
5 again, there's some evidence Julio is different, but as to
6 Jonathan, if his only involvement is money laundering and
7 that's it, do you believe that's enough to convict him for the
8 conspiracy on the drug charge?

9 MR. GONZALEZ: Sure. There's witnesses that are
10 going to say that --

11 THE COURT: The only reason is we've tried a number
12 of cases, and in similar kind of cases where there's a mixture
13 of the money laundering side, the drug distribution side, most
14 of the Defendants have gotten acquitted on -- when there really
15 wasn't any evidence of them doing anything other than money
16 laundering. They got convicted of the money laundering side,
17 but --

18 MR. GONZALEZ: Well, I --

19 THE COURT: We're not in trial today. I just thought
20 we should --

21 MR. GONZALEZ: I would beg to differ. I've gotten
22 convictions from both, both the drug conspiracy and the money
23 laundering, based on these exact same facts where their part or
24 their role in the conspiracy is just to launder the money or to
25 transport the money. Because of the fact that it's coming from

1 the distribution of drugs, they're squarely in the conspiracy
2 to distribute drugs.

3 That quantity of money can then be converted to
4 kilogram quantities of whatever drug it was that was
5 generating those proceeds.

6 THE COURT: Okay. So now the presumption is in play,
7 irrespective of the Court's comments, because the indictment
8 triggers that presumption. So I'll let the Defendants go first
9 to argue why you feel like you rebutted the presumption and I
10 should allow for a bond. Who would like to go first?

11 MR. DAVIS: Your Honor --

12 THE COURT: You need to use a mic.

13 MR. DAVIS: Sorry. Would you like me to address you
14 back there?

15 THE COURT: It doesn't matter. That's fine too.

16 MR. DAVIS: So, as the Court noted, this is not a
17 trial. It's -- it's a summary of the evidence in the case.

18 I believe the Court has the Pretrial Services Report.
19 I think the Court is well aware of Mr. Ramos's background,
20 that he doesn't have a criminal history. He's somewhat of
21 an elderly gentleman who has got a lot of health problems.

22 He is not here legally. He's from Peru.

23 THE COURT: That's the other question, and let me ask
24 that. I mean, typically when I was a Magistrate Judge, we
25 never had a hearing when someone had an ICE hold.

1 MR. DAVIS: I just learned of that today.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Because you only get one -- I say
3 that because normally what I would say to the attorneys is that
4 you only get one detention hearing, and I'll never let somebody
5 out when there's an ICE hold.

6 MR. DAVIS: Right.

7 THE COURT: But I understand we went through a whole
8 hearing and I'll make whatever findings, independent of that.

9 MR. DAVIS: And that's the deal. I noticed the date
10 was August 20th. When I called before that date, I was told
11 there was no ICE hold, so today was the time I learned of that.

12 THE COURT: Sure.

13 MR. DAVIS: And the Government apparently recently
14 learned of it too, and they have been good about communicating
15 with me.

16 So I understand there's an ICE hold, so obviously we're
17 in a little bit of a different position. So I would just
18 ask the Court to consider the weight of the testimony. I
19 think there's a question of whether Mr. Ramos really knew
20 that these were drug proceeds, which obviously is kind of
21 the gravamen of the offense, or whether he believed he was
22 getting good faith rental payments.

23 Also, you know, there's a lot of inconsistencies with
24 the Government's theory, I mean, from how much money was
25 deposited to, wait a minute, was he buying property or was

1 he sending money back to Mexico?

2 It just seems like it could be put together a little
3 better and it's really murky, and it's murky as far as bank
4 records go, endorsements and everything else, and it has
5 been a challenge for me to even figure out these numbers.
6 And I'm not sure mine are even accurate or they're complete
7 because of the way the records are.

8 So -- but I do understand it's a presumption case in
9 this situation. That's what I would say.

10 Thank you, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Silverman.

12 MR. SILVERMAN: Yes, Your Honor. Jonathan Ramos is a
13 United States citizen. He has significant ties to his
14 community. He graduated from high school. He has a history of
15 steady employment. He attended a four year college. He
16 received his undergraduate degree. He's married. He has three
17 children.

18 He has no criminal history. He -- there's no
19 extraneous information about him possessing firearms, about
20 him being a drug abuser, about him abusing alcohol.

21 Additionally, there's at least some evidence in this
22 record that in the event the Court releases him, that he's
23 going to be able to seek employment back at the community
24 college.

25 THE COURT: Well, the witness didn't know that so

1 do we -- have you been able to verify whether or not he has a
2 job he can go back to?

3 MR. SILVERMAN: Only through him, that I have talked
4 to him and that his supervisor has told him as soon as he gets
5 out to call him. And so the record is what it is with respect
6 to the employment.

7 With respect to the evidence in this case, the
8 Government has a bank account that he had his name on the
9 bank account with his father. There's no evidence that he
10 endorsed -- in this hearing there's no evidence that he
11 endorsed any of these money orders that were deposited into
12 the account.

13 There is no evidence that he was the one that
14 electronically transferred any of those funds. There is no
15 evidence, according to the agent, that he participated in
16 the straw purchases of any of these houses. There's no
17 evidence that he participated in the straw purchases of any
18 cars.

19 When he was arrested, he didn't attempt to flee. There
20 were no firearms that were recovered at the house. There
21 were no drugs recovered at the house.

22 If the Court looks at this as a presumption case, if
23 there ever was a case that a person should be released,
24 Jonathan Ramos is that person, and I would ask the Court to
25 release him.

1 THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Gonzalez.

2 MR. GONZALEZ: Well, first of all, Your Honor, we
3 would rely on the presumption. And I think the evidence that
4 you heard -- let me start by their witnesses. I don't believe
5 that their witnesses have rebutted the presumption either.

6 I believe that the one witness, Ms. Marin, who
7 testified said she was concerned for her own kids having
8 someone like that, that -- with what she has heard here
9 today, coming into her house. I don't think she rebuts the
10 presumption to continuing threat to the community, when she
11 herself is in fear that something may happen to her children
12 having the Defendant in her residence.

13 And the reason I was asking the questions about who
14 hired the attorneys is because there appears to be excessive
15 wealth here when you look at what's in the Pretrial Services
16 Report to what's in the testimony of the bank statements.

17 Defense counsel wants to say, well, there's no proof
18 that Jonathan Ramos cashed those checks. It could have been
19 Julio Ramos. Well, maybe it could have been, but I don't
20 think that that causes this Court any less concern.

21 The cashier's checks are in his name. He's living with
22 his father. Those cashier's checks are winding up in their
23 bank account.

24 He can't be deliberately ignorant to the fact that
25 there's large sums of money coming into his bank account and

1 he's not questioning that. If anything, it's indicative of
2 them working together, having a mutual bank account,
3 receiving large sums of money from Dallas, Texas, receiving
4 money orders in his name, which defense counsel wants to
5 insinuate that his father has deposited into their account.

6 I think they're working together. I think the evidence
7 shows, as the agent testified, that this was a large
8 conspiracy that was moving large quantities of drugs, and
9 they were doing their role, their part of it, either to
10 receive the money and pay for purchases of property in
11 California that the main actors in this conspiracy have
12 purchased, or they were sending the money back to Mexico so
13 that more drugs could be processed and sent back to Dallas
14 so that there could be a continuing flow of drugs into the
15 United States and a continuing flow of money to these
16 Defendants, who are in communication with the main actors.
17 Let's not lose sight of that. They're in communication with
18 the main actors in Mexico.

19 You also heard the recording where the individuals --

20 MR. SILVERMAN: I just have to object to that last
21 statement of the prosecutor. There is no evidence that
22 Jonathan Ramos was in communication with anybody in Mexico. So
23 just with respect to Jonathan Ramos, I would object to that.

24 MR. GONZALEZ: There's the testimony from the agent
25 and that's what I would rely on, Your Honor.

1 So there's communication -- there's also communication
2 that was played for the Court where a leader/organizer in
3 the organization is specifically orchestrating or saying
4 that certain amounts of money need to be sent to the
5 individuals in California. Whether it's Julio Ramos or
6 Jonathan Ramos, it's one and the same, from the Government's
7 perspective. They're working together to launder the money
8 for this organization.

9 It's not by accident that there's \$30,000 in Jonathan
10 Ramos's account and he says, well, the bulk of that money
11 belongs to my father. Again, indicative that they're
12 working together in this process.

13 He is unemployed for substantial amounts of time. His
14 employment at the university or at Staples cannot possibly
15 generate the amounts of money being depicted in this bank
16 account.

17 And the same thing for Mr. Julio Ramos. He either
18 forgot to tell this Court he has rental property, as defense
19 counsel wants the Court to believe those payments were for,
20 because he doesn't mention it in the Pretrial Services
21 Report. He said his sole income was \$5,000 that he gets
22 from working at this real estate company, and 2500 of that
23 is monthly expenses.

24 So the bank accounts do not match up to what they're
25 reporting to this Court. So they're underreporting their

1 income so that the Court doesn't believe what the testimony
2 of the agent was, that their role is to launder money for
3 this large organization.

4 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Gonzalez.

5 Okay. So as to Julio Ramos, first of all, he has an
6 ICE detainer, so the Court has to detain him anyways. But I
7 don't believe the presumption has been rebutted, and the
8 evidence to him is very different than Jonathan. So absent
9 that ICE detainer, I would detain him, and I'll enter an
10 order by the end of the week.

11 As to Jonathan, I want to ponder that. I don't -- I'll
12 enter a decision by the end of the week. I'm troubled by
13 some of the facts in the case in terms of what has been
14 alleged and -- but I think that one is a closer call, so
15 I will take that matter under advisement as to Jonathan and
16 I'll make a decision by the end of the week. I have to
17 because I resume another trial next week.

18 MR. SILVERMAN: May I say something, Your Honor? Is
19 there anything else I can provide the Court with respect to
20 like the employment issue? If I could get a letter from his
21 employer, would the Court consider that? I would like to keep
22 the record open and tender a copy to the Government.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: I would object to that, Your Honor.
24 If they knew this was going to be a representation they were
25 going to make to the Court, they should have brought that

1 employer or brought that letter.

2 THE COURT: Well, the issue for me is -- I think as
3 to that fact, I can probably say he may have the ability to go
4 back to his job is where I'm leaving it, because it's unknown
5 for sure. But even if he could, whether that -- I don't think
6 that would turn it for me.

7 So my problem is we have a large drug operation. A
8 number of people have fled. As the agent said, some of
9 those are U.S. citizens who have fled.

10 So I'll be very candid. I'm not inclined to let him
11 out. So that fact wouldn't turn it, but I do want to go
12 through and look at everything again.

13 MR. SILVERMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: And then we'll proceed.

15 Okay. Anything further from the Government on this
16 case?

17 MR. GONZALEZ: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Anything else from defense?

19 MR. SILVERMAN: No, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Both of you will go back into custody
21 now, and I'll decide the issue by the end of the week as to
22 Jonathan.

23 MR. SILVERMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: I'm staying on the bench because I have
25 one more hearing that was supposed to be at 10:30.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from
the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

Jan Mason

Date

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